



June 2021

Fox River Life



Seeing as how we celebrate Father's Day in the month of June, I thought this article by Pastor Ray Ortlund Jr. would be most appropriate. All men are not fathers and yet all men should live

like this as they have great influence. May God call help us reach this higher standard!

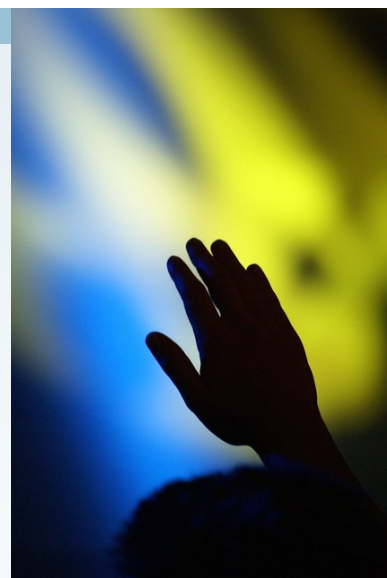
*In His Name & For His Glory
Pastor Tim*

In public, my dad was one of the great pastors of his generation. He served most notably for twenty fruitful years at Lake Avenue Congregational Church in Pasadena, where John and Noël Piper worshiped during their Fuller Seminary days. Dad and John were dear friends.

In private, my dad was the same man. There was only one Ray Ortlund, Sr. — an authentic Christian man. The distance between what I saw in the New Testament and what I saw in my dad was slight. He was the most Christlike man I've ever known, the kind of man, the kind of father, I long to be. In no particular order, here are ten lessons on fatherhood I learned from watching him, each lesson living on in my life from memories of his care for me.

1. He was never too busy.

My dad was a busy pastor, but he was never too busy for me. When he felt he hadn't had enough time with me, he'd say, "Hey Bud, want to skip school tomorrow and go down to the beach?" It didn't take me long to agree to that! So off we went. We surfed and talked and had fun together. The next day he'd write a note to the school to explain my absence, and when I took it to the principal's office they always marked my absence "Unexcused." I guess the reason didn't count with them — a father wanting to catch up with his son. But dad didn't care. I mattered to him. And I knew it.



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A Father's Wise Instruction

Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight, 2) for I give you good precepts; do not forsake my teaching. 3) When I was a son with my father, tender, the only one in the sight of my mother, 4) he taught me and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live. 5) Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth. 6) Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you. 7) The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight. 8) Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her. 9) She will place on your head a graceful garland; she will bestow

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From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

2. He was a Bible man.

My dad was wholeheartedly devoted to Jesus. On my seventeenth birthday, he and my mom gave me a new Bible. In the front he wrote the following:

Bud,

Nothing could be greater than to have a son — a son who loves the Lord and walks with Him. Your mother and I have found this Book our dearest treasure. We give it to you and doing so can give nothing greater. Be a student of the Bible and your life will be full of blessing. We love you.

Dad

9/7/66

Philippians 1:6

When I read that, I knew my dad meant every word of it. He was a Bible man, and the blessing he wrote about was obvious in his own life.

3. He praised God.

As a kid growing up, I didn't need an alarm clock most mornings. I woke up to the sound of my dad singing in the shower down the hallway. Every morning he sang heartily and cheerfully this hymn:

*When morning gilds the skies
My heart awaking cries
May Jesus Christ be praised
Alike at work or prayer
To Jesus I repair
May Jesus Christ be praised*

Many men are hard to read. I have no idea what they stand for. But I never wondered about my dad — what he cared most about, what he was living for. Never once. At all. Not even a little. He did not take a keep-a-low-profile approach to life. Jesus was too wonderful to him. He praised the Lord throughout his life, in public, in private, in a clear and winsome way that could not be ignored.

4. He cheered me on.

My dad set me free to pursue God's call on my life. He guided me in appropriate ways, of course, but he did not fearfully cling to me or hope I would always live nearby. Just the opposite. He urged me to follow Christ anywhere. Now and then he'd make this speech: "Listen, son. Half-hearted Christians are the most miserable people of all. They know enough about God to feel guilty, but they haven't gone far enough with Christ to be happy. Be all-out for him! I don't care if you're a ditch-digger, as long as you love the Lord with all your heart."

He was not impressed with worldly success and going to the right schools and all that pretense and bluff. He wanted something better for me, something I had to find on my own. But I never doubted how urgently he desired for me a clear call from God on my life. And I did receive it, partly because my dad didn't intrude himself into it but cheered me on as I followed the Lord myself.

5. He had a real walk with God.

I remember going downstairs early one morning and walking in on my dad in the living room. There he was, on his knees, his face buried in his hands, absorbed in

(continued on page 4)



*And he said to them,
"Follow me, and I will make
you fishers of men."
Matthew 4:19*



***Sunday, June 13th at 11am
Ladies' Craft & Lunch***

Join us to make a Patriotic Wreath! Lunch is included in the cost.



Craft Details: All supplies are included in the cost.

*Please bring a hot glue gun if you have one.

**You may also bring other appliques that you'd like to use in your project.



Deaconess Ministry Update



***Sunday, July 11th at 12pm
All Church Picnic***

The annual church picnic will be held here at Fox River Baptist Church this year!



More Details will be provided the closer we get to the event.

Deaconess of the Month—Lynn Abitz

on you a beautiful crown."

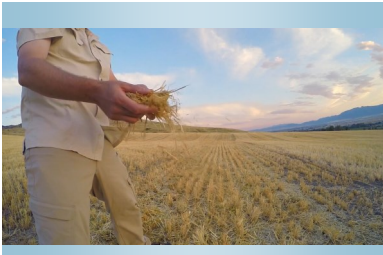
10) Hear, my son, and accept my words, that the years of your life may be many. 11) I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in the paths of uprightness. 12) When you walk, your step will not be hampered, and if you run, you will not stumble.

13) Keep hold of instruction; do not let go; guard her, for she is your life. 14) Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of the evil.

15) Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on. 16) For they cannot sleep unless they have done wrong; they are robbed of sleep unless they have made someone stumble.

17) For they eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence. 18) But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and

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From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

silent prayer. He didn't know anyone else was up. It wasn't for show. It was real. My dad had a real walk with God. It never occurred to me to wonder if Jesus was the Lord of his heart and of our home. Dad loved the gospel. He served the church. He witnessed to our neighbors. He even tithed when he couldn't afford it. He set the tone of our home, and our home was a place of joy, honesty, and comfort. Jesus was there.

6. He taught me theology in the backyard.

One day when I was eleven or twelve, while we were doing yard work outside — I can't remember the context — my dad stopped, looked me in the eyes, and said, "You know, Bud, before time began, God chose you." I was floored. Almighty God thought of tiny me? Way back then? *I felt so loved by God.* Years later, when I became aware of the doctrine of election as such, I had no problem with it. I loved it. My dad had begun my theological education in my boyhood in the course of everyday conversation.

7. He loved us when it wasn't easy.

My mom told me once that dad had a practice as he came home at the end of each day. He worked hard throughout the day and he came home tired. So as he walked up the back steps, before he reached out to open the back door, he would lift a simple prayer to God, "Lord, I need some extra energy *right now*." And God answered that prayer. I never saw my dad walk in with no positive emotion to give. Instead, he'd walk over to my mom, kiss her with a huge kiss, and then turn to me and say, "Come on, Skip, let's wrestle!" And we'd go out to the front room and wrestle on the floor and tickle and laugh and have a blast. The moment-by-moment reality of God in my dad's heart gave him energy to love his family when it wasn't easy.

8. He helped me love the church.

The fact that dad was a pastor made me "the preacher's kid," obviously. Every now and then well-meaning church people said foolish things to me, as if I had to be perfect or superior or something they expected. So dad said to me once, "Son, when people say things like that, they don't mean any harm. But it isn't fair. They don't realize that. I want you to know, you can ignore it."

Dad had high standards for Christian living. But he was wise enough to know that a ten-year-old follows Christ in a way different from a forty-year-old. He was realistic and compassionate. He made allowances for me to be a Christian *kid*. And he is the primary earthly reason why I love the church today. He wisely showed me how church life does not need to be oppressive.

9. He lived his faith simply and practically.

Dad showed me how to walk with the Lord in practical ways. For example, here is a statement he settled on as his own daily path:

My Morning Statement of Faith

I believe that today:

1. God is sovereignly directing my life as I yield myself to him, and that he loves me unconditionally, and I love him and put him first in my life.
2. Christ is my Lord and Master, and I seek to abide in him and do his will immediately and exactly.
3. The Holy Spirit is my friend, teacher, and guide, who will open and close

brighter until full day.
 19) *The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble.* 20) *My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings.* 21) *Let them not escape from your sight; keep them within your heart.* 22) *For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh.* 23) *Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.* 24) *Put away from you crooked speech, and put devious talk far from you.* 25) *Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you.* 26) *Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure.* 27) *Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil.*

Proverbs 4:1-27

From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

doors today and fill me with himself to make me an effective servant.

4. I now commit my wife and family to the Lord, who loves them as well as others I love. They too are in his sovereign care.
5. I step out in bold faith and relax in the Lord, and enjoy this day given to me by him. I trust him to use me today.

It's simple, but valid. Dad exemplified how to make daily Christianity accessible and practical.

10. He told me ministry isn't everything.

Being a "preacher's kid" was sometimes difficult, as I mentioned. But more than offsetting this difficulty was my dad's love for me and my admiration for him. I adored him. I still do. Even as I write this, I choke up. I miss him so. Being the son of a godly pastor was a sacred privilege given to me as a gift from God himself. My respect for my dad and his personal attractiveness — the real Christianity I saw in him, the beauty with which he served as a pastor even when he suffered — the personal impact of it all was that I grew to revere the pastoral ministry. And today I am rejoicing to be a pastor myself. Which brings me to my final scenario.

Early on Sunday, July 22, 2007, my dad woke up in his hospital room in Newport Beach. He knew it was finally his day of release from this life. He had the nurse call the family in. My wife, Jani, and I were far away in Ireland for ministry that day. We didn't know what was happening back home. But the family gathered at dad's bedside. They read Scripture. They sang hymns. Dad spoke a word of patriarchal blessing and admonition to each one, a message suited to encourage and guide. He pronounced over them all the blessing of Aaron: "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace" ([Numbers 6:24-26](#)). And then, quietly, he fell asleep. Later I asked my sister about dad's message to me. It was this: "Tell Bud, ministry isn't everything. Jesus is." My dad's dying words summed up his parenting and his whole life.

Intentional Discipleship Update

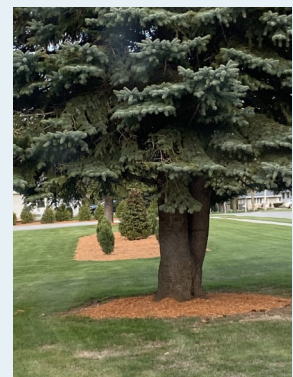
Even though after this Sunday, June 6th, we will be taking a break from Sunday School, we will not be taking a break from Intentional Discipleship. The Men's and Ladies Bible study on Saturday morning will be beginning new studies. The Men will begin to go through Daniel and the Ladies will be going through Hebrews. This is a perfect time to begin a study and I know the leaders would welcome anyone who would wish to join them. The Thursday afternoon Ladies study in addition is going well and they are coming towards the end of their study of the book entitled *The Pursuit of Holiness* by Jerry Bridges. As many of you are aware, I will be taking my sabbatical this summer beginning in the middle of July and ending after Labor Day. Because of that fact the Elders have decided to only have Sunday Evening service on the 2nd and 4th Sunday nights for prayer for the months of June, July, and August. The ask Pastor Tim and the study through the Five Solas will resume after I return. So, even though we are curbing back on some of our offerings for the summer, there is plenty of opportunities for learning and discipleship. Let us not be guilty of "a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest."

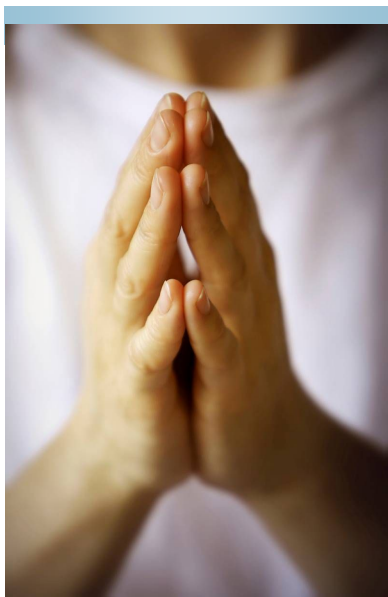


Spring Clean-up Report

On May 1st we had our official Spring Clean up Day at Fox River Baptist church! We had a good turnout, and a lot of windows were cleaned, furniture dusted, and weeds pulled! The gravel was cleaned off of the parking area and mulch was placed around the landscaping. I would like to thank everyone that helped in any way! We will continue to tend to the needs of the church as they arise. As we all know many hands make light work! Thank you again for serving.

Regards, Jay Hoffman





Sunday Evening Services Schedule

June 6—No Evening Service

June 13—Prayer at 5 pm

June 20—No Evening Service

June 27—Prayer at 5 pm

SUNDAY



Men's Bible Study
Saturdays at 8am

Women's Bible Study
Saturdays at 8am
& Thursdays at 1:15pm

Women's Prayer
Wednesdays at 9:30am

Connect
WITH OUR
CHURCH FAMILY



Financial Update—May 2-30, 2021
Budget needed weekly: \$ 2,606.00
Received: \$ 2,682.00
Contact Rob Mlodzik with questions.



June 6

Kyle Tubbs

June 13

Scott Smith

June 20

Jeffery Smith

June 27

Jay Hoffman

St Joseph's Food Pantry

Each month we will collect
non-perishable food items.
Place your food items on the table
provided in the foyer.



Here at FRBC, we have a prayer chain meant for the sharing of prayer request needs and for sharing praise for the awesome & mighty work God does in our lives. Please feel free to share any praise or request at our new prayer request email address:

prayer@foxriverbaptist.com

Care to be part of the prayer chain? Email or call Becky Godfrey at
becl.godfrey@gmail.com — (920)277-1526

Missions

“Go Ye into all the World, and preach
the Gospel to every creature.”
Mark 16:15

Missions Update

Crick and Mindy Porier

reside in the university city of Tartu. Since 2008, they have been partnering with the local church and the Union of Estonian Baptist and Evangelical Free Churches to connect, develop and support church planting, youth ministry and various outreach programs throughout Estonia.

Crick also serves as the Estonia Team Leader for Converge. Crick and Mindy's ministry emphasizes mentoring youth and young adults in leadership and spiritual growth. A key aspect of this is The South Estonia Outreach Project, which connects Christian young adult leaders to outreach opportunities in the cities, villages, and rural areas of southern Estonia which are unreached or among the least-reached.

Estonia is one of the least-religious countries in the world and the most atheist country in Europe. Less than 2% are evangelical Christians.

****The Poriers will be at FRBC on July 25th to share more about their ministry.***



In His Service

*“The harvest is plentiful,
but the laborers are few;
therefore pray earnestly to
the Lord of the harvest to
send out laborers into his
harvest.”*

- Matthew 9:37-38



FRBC Vision Statement

We desire that everyone who enters Fox River Baptist Church grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and grow in authentic, loving, familial relationships to make the name of Christ known in our community and world, all for the glory of God and joy of all.



- 1—Eliza Bressler
- 2—Judy Waggoner
- 16—Jay Hoffman
- 17—Scott Smith



- 3—Howard & Doris Schimke
- 6—Scott & Rhonda Dohms
- 20—Don & Chris Wynkoop
- 22—Bob & Lynn Abitz
- 23—Carl & Sheryl Zwerg
- 24—Gaylord & Dian Van Loo



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Thursday - 9:00 am - 1:00 pm