

# Men's Gathering **Life's Topics—God's Plan**

Resource Guide

**January 2011:  
Money**



**Resources to equip  
you to live for Christ**

*“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”*  
*Romans 12:2*

Men's Gathering 2010-2011

# Life's Topics—God's Plan

All too often the plan of God can seem like something that's far off, remote, detached somehow from the day-to-day demands and the seemingly insignificant actions of an ordinary day. At the same time, the topics of life seem more present—concerns about money, missions, prayer, church leadership, marriage to name just a few—these topics seem to be connected to daily and weekly life and are an integral part of who we are as men and as Christian people.

In reality, God's plan intersects with life. This year's Men's Gathering explores that intersection. We are looking forward to hearing from a variety of men with different experiences and varied perspectives. We want to encourage each of you to bring your own observations and experiences with you to the Gathering each month. Be ready to share, poised to listen to others, grateful for the Word of God, and open to how God might want to change you in the year ahead. Pray that God's Word will come alive in us this year and that we will be a changed people as a result.

Proverbs 11:4 tells us, "Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety." This year our Men's Gathering provides us with an abundance of counselors on a variety of topics that each of us needs to work through repeatedly throughout the course of our lives.

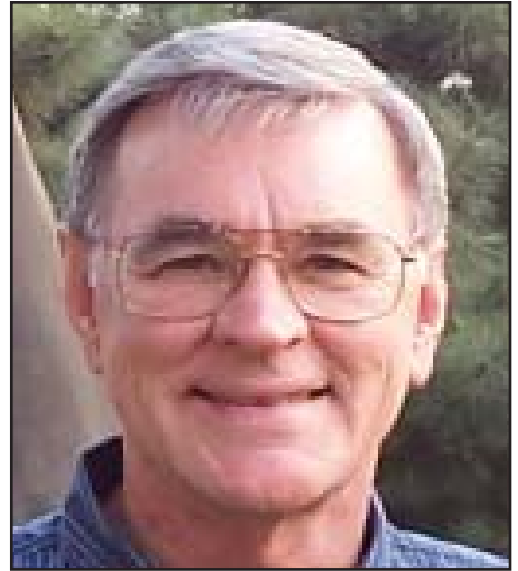
The good news is that we aren't alone to wrestle through this maze called life. Jesus gives us His Word and His Spirit. Men's Gathering is a place for coming together around God's Word to learn and grow. Join us each month for a different topic and a focus on God's plan for our lives.

## FROM OUR ELDERS

*Throughout the year, Men's Gatherings will spotlight a few of our current elders. This will provide you an opportunity to get an inside look at these ordinary men and how God has uniquely equipped them to be lay leaders in His church.*

### WAYNE MARTINDALE:

My wife, Nita, and I are transplants. I was born in Oklahoma, where my folks had grown up on subsistence farms. When I was a few months old, they decided to move to California to improve their lot in life by picking cotton. My earliest memories include cotton fields. Nita was born in New Mexico, but at age two, her family moved to California so her dad could attend seminary near San Francisco. We met in college. In the space of one month, a lot changed. As planned, I graduated and got married; but, unplanned (though not a total surprise) was drafted into the Army. I managed to get into Officer Candidate School, trained in infantry for over a year, got a branch transfer into the Signal Corps, and went to Vietnam for a tour in 1970/71 as Communications Officer, first with an armored cavalry unit, then heavy artillery. After three years in the Army, I went to graduate school at University of California, Riverside, in English. Grad school overlapped with several years of teaching, then administration, at University of Redlands in Southern California. I'm Professor of English at Wheaton College, where I have served and grown for 30 years.



### "REAL CHURCH"

At University of Redlands, pear trees bloomed outside my office window in February (I did not own an overcoat!). In February 1981, I came to the snow-covered campus of Wheaton College to interview for a job. I saw College Church across the street and said to myself, "That's one place we will never go." My stereotype included a program dominated by college students and the leadership asking me to teach college students again on Sunday. No, sir, I wanted to go to a "real church."

As everyone learns sooner or later, you never say "never" to God—not if your His kid! I came to teach in the English Department in August 1981. We bounced around a few churches and settled into one, I thought, on the other side of town. But my wife and daughter kept hearing good

reports about College Church (I guess I was already deaf to such reports) and kept wanting to visit. Finally, on Thanksgiving weekend, I relented and agreed to visit, thinking to myself: "Let's get this over with so we can get back to the serious business of looking for a real church."

From that Sunday on, we never went anyplace else. It turned out to be a real church: it was transgenerational; we had a great time in the "Couples Class" with other young families, the preaching, then as now, was terrific. The small group program was just getting started, and we were asked to be on a small group committee that would meet with others who would then lead their own group the next year. That new group started the following year and lasted for over 17 years, through births, deaths, marriages, roofing projects, career changes—the stuff of life. We worshipped, studied the Bible, prayed, laughed, and cried. Now, we are in our second year in another great small group. When we came to College Church, our daughter was six. Eventually, she was married in College Church. Now our oldest grandkid is seven. This year I retire from thirty years at Wheaton College—but not from College Church. I'm in my fourth term as Elder.

#### LIFE'S SURPRISES!

There are lots of surprises in life. I liked teaching at Wheaton; I didn't want God to move me. I feared that if I gave everything to Him, he would want me to go someplace strange, like China. In the mid 1980's, we become host to a visiting Chinese scientist for two years. He came to faith in Christ, and we came to love him and gained an interest in China. We went for a semester in 1989, which came to an early end after the June Fourth Beijing Massacre. Since then, China has changed—and so have we. It's been a major interest ever since. We've been six times—always to teach and often to take Wheaton students—in stays ranging from one month to two years.

#### BOOKS

There are lots of great books on China. A good short book Nita gave me this Christmas is Mike Falkenstine's *The Chinese Puzzle*, which gives an overview of the church in China. I also like Peter Hessler's witty mixtures of autobiography and journalism in *Rivertown*, *Oracles Bones*, and *Country Driving*. My favorite introduction to China is Jung Chang's *Wild Swans*, which covers three generations of the author's family through an almost unimaginable century of turbulence.

Apart from Bible writers, no other author has changed me more than C. S. Lewis, whose *Great Divorce* (a theological fantasy on heaven and

hell) I read as a college sophomore and have never gotten over. I've since read all of Lewis and have written a bit on him: *The Quotable Lewis* (edited with Jerry Root), *Beyond the Shadowlands: C. S. Lewis on Heaven and Hell*, and *The Soul of Lewis: A Meditative Journey through Twenty-Six of His Best-Loved Works* (with Jerry Root and Linda Washington).

There are some Russian greats: Dostoevsky's *Brothers Karamazov*, Tolstoy's *The Death of Ivan Illych*, and the late Solzhenitsen's *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*. The names are scary, but the last two are not only short, but hard-hitting and easy to read.

I've just finished Atul Gawande's *The Checklist Manifesto*—a look into managing the complicated processes of flying airplanes, building skyscrapers, and performing surgery. A book that touches on the Army life I lived in Vietnam is Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*.

My favorite book of the Bible: 1 Peter.

REGISTER NOW!

Register at [www.college-church.org](http://www.college-church.org) on the Mens page today!

MEN'S  
CONFERENCE  
2011  
AT COLLEGE CHURCH

"THE TRIUMPH  
OF UNANSWERED  
PRAYER"

JANUARY  
28-29, 2011

PASTOR ERWIN  
LUTZER

What's going on when my prayers go unanswered? The mysteries of prayer, especially unanswered prayer, can raise questions about life, God and us. As we delve into this topic with Dr. Lutzer, we'll learn much about the character and power of God and what that means for us as men—husbands, fathers, sons, workers, friends.

This year's men's conference will take place here at College Church. Benefit from great teaching, fellowship and good food without having to leave town or spend three figures to get there. We are hoping this will make it possible for even more men to join us. Why not invite a neighbor or co-worker?

## **ALSO COMING IN 2011:**

### **TRAINING FOR MINISTRY:**

This is a class on the biblical view of spiritual gifts and service in the church.

When: Sundays, April 10 & 17 from 2-5 p.m.

Teacher: Dave Setran

### **PRAYERLIFE SEMINAR**

This is a practical, hands-on course intended to help you connect with God through prayer. It is designed around Paul Miller's book *A Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Distracting World*.

When: Friday evening & Saturday morning, April 15–16, 2011

Teacher: Bob Allums

## GET INVOLVED:

*Want to get involved serving in ministry at College Church? Here are a few places you can plug in and the person to contact.*

**Serve with Your Son**—Here is an opportunity to serve alongside your teenage son(s). There is no other bond like serving together. Consider committing to one Sunday a month, where you and your son(s) would be on call to come to church and shovel, snow-blow or salt for the benefit of the congregation's worship. The commitment is small, but very important. If you have any questions, please contact Howard Kern, ext. 136 or [hkern@college-church.org](mailto:hkern@college-church.org). Contact Ginny [ghrushka@college-church.org](mailto:ghrushka@college-church.org) or ext. 109.

**Upward Soccer or Basketball**—As part of our sports ministry, Upward is an evangelistic basketball/soccer league. Upward is looking for coaches, refs, scorekeepers, and other helpers. Contact Harper, [hguerra@college-church.org](mailto:hguerra@college-church.org) or ext. 123

**Kids' Harbor**—Our ministry to infant through sixth graders. There are opportunities on Sundays and Wednesdays and occasional special services. Contact Cindy, [cnickell@college-church.org](mailto:cnickell@college-church.org) or ext. 128.

### Student Ministries

**KMs**—Our ministry to junior high students.

**HYACKs**—Our ministry to high school students.

Contact Ginny, [ghrushka@college-church.org](mailto:ghrushka@college-church.org) or ext. 109.

**STARS**—Our Disability Ministry needs volunteers on Wednesdays, Sundays, Friday, and for their Shepherd's Arms Respite Program. Contact Dawn, [dclark@college-church.org](mailto:dclark@college-church.org) or ext. 265.

**Community Dinner with Friends**—Our weekly dinners for the church body. People are needed to cook, clean and serve. A great way to serve as a whole family. Contact Beth, (630) 510-0486.

**Ushers**—Help people find seats, take offering and offer other assistance during Sunday worship. Contact Jim, (630) 653-2909.

**Library**—As a great resource to our congregation, the Library needs help on different days at different times with many varying jobs which include running the check-out counter on Sundays, book processing and shelf straightening during the week, writing of book reviews and website updating.

Contact Lisa, lkern@college-church.org or ext. 138.

## **MISSIONS**

**Outreach to Internationals**—There are many easy ways you can get involved in bringing the gospel to more than 19,000 international students who are studying in Chicago. It's as simple as being friendly and hospitable.

Contact Chris, chardy@college-church.org or ext. 154.

**Outreach to Immigrants and Refugees**—There are numerous ways you can get involved with immigrants and refugees in the DuPage County area: become an ESL aide, join a friendship team around a newly arrived refugee family, relocate to Wheaton Square Apartments or develop a friendship with a immigrant colleague or neighbor. Join in God's work as he brings the nations to our doorstep for His glorious purposes.

Contact Chris, chardy@college-church.org or ext. 154.

**Short Term Missions Teams (STAMP)**—We are looking for men to help lead and participate in STAMP, World Impact and Fellowship for Theological Training Teams. For more information and applications, see our website: <http://www.college-church.org/missions/STAMP.htm>

Contact Marilyn, mpapierski@college-church.org or ext. 191.

**Missions Team**—The Missions Team is looking for men skilled in videography, photography, graphic design, statistics, media production and web design to assist the team in development of media publications.

Contact Chris, chardy@college-church.org or ext. 154.

## **OTHER RESOURCES:**

### **On-Line Biblical Training**

Wheaton College Distance Learning

[http://www.wheatongrad.com/Distance\\_Learning\\_Courses](http://www.wheatongrad.com/Distance_Learning_Courses)

Moody Bible Institute Distance Learning

[www.moody.edu](http://www.moody.edu)

Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

[www.tiu.edu/divinity/academics/mode/extension](http://www.tiu.edu/divinity/academics/mode/extension)

The Simeon Trust

[www.simeon.org/web/course](http://www.simeon.org/web/course)

### **Daily Devotionals**

Men of Integrity

[www.christianitytoday.com/moi](http://www.christianitytoday.com/moi)

Our Daily Bread

<http://odb.org/2010/09/05/always-there>

My Utmost for His Highest by Oswald Chambers

<http://utmost.org>

## **Websites**

Blueletterbible.org

*Online Bible, concordance and commentaries in many translations.*

MenOfIntegrity.net

*Online magazine for men with Bible studies, practical guides and many links to other ministry resources.*

Christianbook.com

*Online Christian bookstore (Much like Amazon)*

Tangle.com [Formerly GodTube.com]

*Online community for Christians to share videos (Much like YouTube)*

## **On the Air:**

WJKL 94.3 FM/www.klove.com (includes Christmas music)

WMBI 90.1 FM

WMBI 1110 AM

www.mbn.org

WETN 88.1 FM (Wheaton College Radio)

www.wheaton.edu/wetn (Christmas music)

WCFL 104.7 FM (includes Christmas music)

WBGL 91.7 FM/ www.wbgl.com

WYLL 1160 AM/www.wyll.com

Do you have ideas to share with the other men that we can list in this resource guide? Comments, suggestions or feedback can be directed to christews@yahoo.com.

## TODAY'S PANELISTS:

Mark Berg: As the President and Founder of Timothy Financial Counsel, Inc., Mark oversees the financial planning process and management of the firm. Prior to starting TFC, Mark served as a Client Manager at a high-end, fee-only financial planning firm, Ronald Blue & Co and has provided fee-only counsel since 1995. He holds a B.A. degree in Economics from Wheaton College and is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ practitioner and NAPFA Registered Financial Advisor where he serves on the National Board of Directors for NAPFA (2008-2011).

He speaks regularly at schools, churches, and conferences on financial planning and stewardship. He has been interviewed and/or quoted by a variety of publications, such as *Crain's Chicago Business*, *Dow Jones Newswire*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Kiplinger's*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *Reader's Digest* and *Consumer Reports*. He has also been interviewed by ABC 7 News and NBC television.

Mark is married to the best woman in the whole world, Cheryce, and has three active boys, Josh, Ryan and Luke. He enjoys softball, kayaking, baseball with the boys, and tennis. Mark loves Jesus, and is privileged to serve on the Board of Elders at College Church.

Mark Trieglaff: Mark has been a member of College Church for 12 years. He is married with two children. He has served in a number of areas including the Disability Ministry, a Deacon and a Counselor with the Good Cents Ministry. He is a professional Accessibility Consultant and serves on the board of Joni and Friends.

## QUESTIONS FOR TODAY:

1. How did you learn about money, and why is this such a tough topic to discuss?
2. Is there a particular Bible verse that you found helpful in shaping this discussion on money?
3. What new idea did you hear this morning?
4. Share a personal struggle you have been dealing with in this area of money.
5. What is a "next step" for you?

**NOTES:**

Be sure to join us for our next meeting  
on February 11 on Marriage

**MEN'S GATHERING DATES**

February 11

March 11

April 8

May 13

June 10