

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

Resource Guide

**November 2010:  
Prayer**



**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 spot light 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.*

### **JON LAANSMA:**

Knowledge of the original languages is neither a necessary nor a sufficient cause of good biblical interpretation, but it is a very important contributory cause. There are a great many who do not know any Greek, Hebrew, or Aramaic who are better interpreters than many who do. Those without the languages may possess the all important skills and virtues of reading and understanding, of historical investigation, and of integrative reflection. They may engage in humble dialogue with the tradition and with their contemporaries to an extent that their linguistic limitations are more than compensated for. Too often those who have studied one or more of the biblical languages possess only a narrow band of technical skills applied artlessly and without hermeneutical wisdom to isolated texts. Through arrogance or naiveté they may imagine that knowledge of the languages is the key to unlock the meaning of the text. They work much mischief. Comparing the best of the former with the worst of the latter, this general point cannot be denied. It remains true, however, that any reader at all would be immeasurably better equipped with the knowledge of the original languages than without. Where the opportunity to learn the languages is denied there is hope. But where the opportunity is spurned there can be only blame. "In so far as we love the Gospel, to that extent let us study the ancient tongues." Yet Martin Luther, to whom that line has been attributed, certainly had no narrow view of the reading of Scripture. On a piece of paper found near him at the time of his death Luther had written, "No one can understand Virgil's Georgics unless he has been a farmer for five years. No one can understand Cicero's letters unless he has busied himself in the affairs of a great empire for twenty-five years. No one can presume to have indulged in Holy Scriptures sufficiently unless he were in charge of all the churches for one hundred years with the prophets Elijah and Elisha, John the Baptist, Christ, and the Apostles. Do not seize hold of this divine Aeneid, but adore its tracks with humility. We are beggars, this is true." Indeed, for many of us who have found so much enjoyment in the exegesis of the Scriptures in the



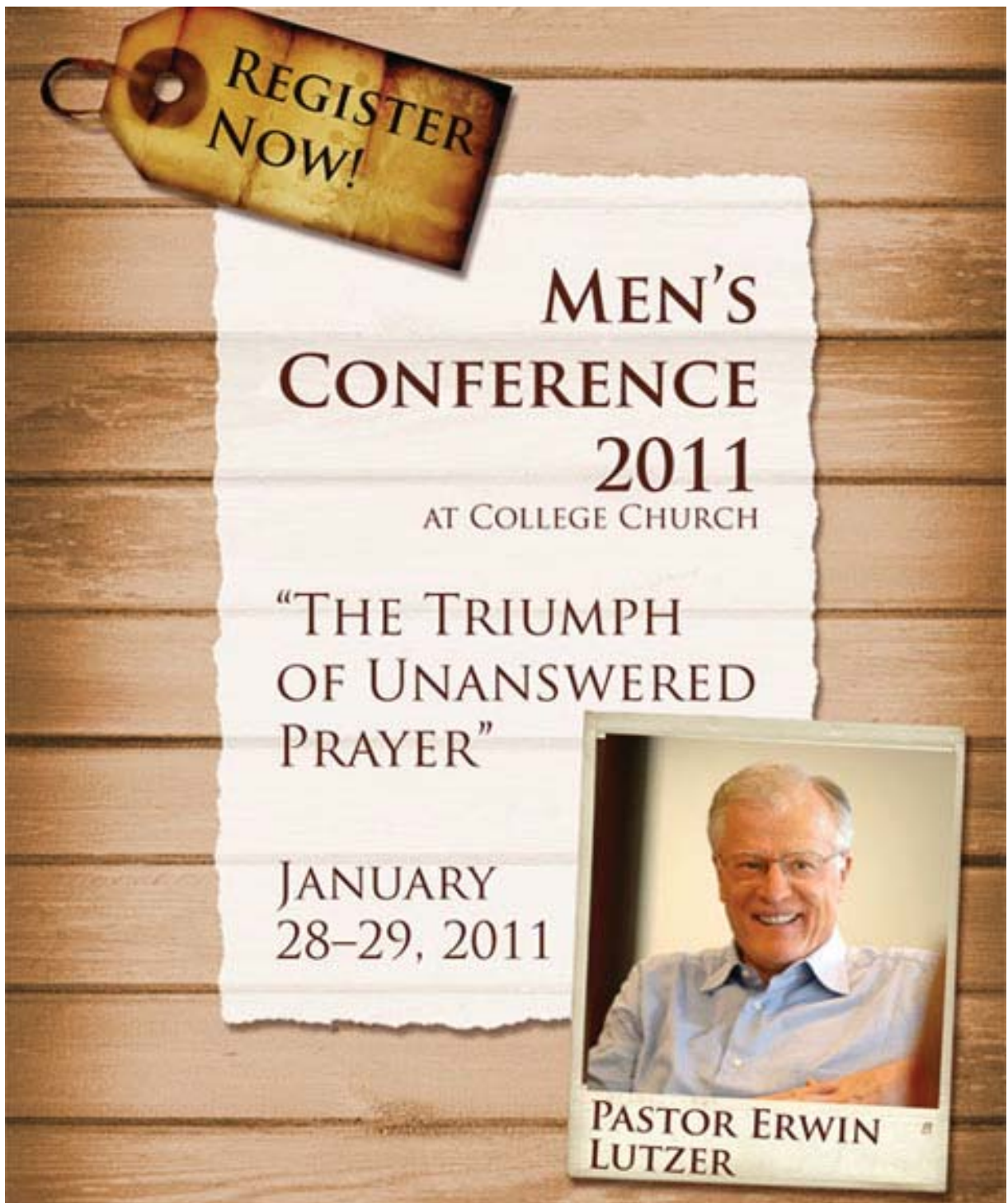
original languages our interest was not first of all linguistic but antecedently one of love for our Savior and his holy Word. This has been and remains fundamentally an act of worship.

I hail from Grand Rapids, Michigan, the seventh child of nine. The privilege of spending my life in the Scriptures has been shared since 1984 with my wife Lisa, and since 1995 with our daughter. Lisa and I lived in Aberdeen, Scotland, from 1990 to 1994. Since 1996 Wheaton has been home. Beyond family, I particularly enjoy reading, traveling, the outdoors, exercising alone or with friends, and Big Ten football. In my younger days I enjoyed skiing and hunting. Alas, no longer. We fellowship at College Church in Wheaton where I assist Bob Carlson as he teaches the Greek Exegesis Sunday School class.

One strong interest of mine is that of fellowshipping with our brothers and sisters overseas through ministry. During the spring of 2004 I accompanied several pastors and educators from College Church on a trip to Kenya and Uganda for the purposes of learning and providing training; in 2008 I was privileged to join Dan Block in returning to Kenya to teach a course at Scott Theological College. It is my hope to return there yet again in years to come, under the auspices of CCIW's Fellowship for Theological Training. Currently we are planning an FTT trip to Italy during summer, 2011, to join with Mark and Ruth Brucato in ministry for a week or two.

Before joining the faculty of Wheaton College, where I have taught since the fall of 2003, I spent seven memorable years teaching at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. There and here at Wheaton I have taught Greek, hermeneutics (principles of interpretation), and exegetical book studies.

My leisure reading has ranged about over the years. Earlier in life it was Dostoyevsky, Tolstoy, and Solzhenitsyn, among others. The sea stories of Patrick O'Brien have been favorites. Lewis, Tolkien, Chesterton, among others, have occupied many hours. I have loved reading with our daughter, and the books we have gone through are too many to list, though I can single out the whole series by James Herriot. Ever since my youth I have had an interest in the questions of science and faith, and have enjoyed reading works on both sides as well as those that attempt to bridge these. Of the theologians, Luther's commentary on Galatians, Calvin's Institutes, and, recently, the writings of Thomas Torrance, have been influential.



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?

# COMING IN SPRING 2011: PRAYERLIFE SEMINAR

When asked about their prayer life, most Christians honestly answer that they have no prayer life or a very poor one. Perhaps you've tried praying, but you don't think it works for you. In an effort to help us grow to be more committed in prayer, we will host a PrayerLife Seminar this coming spring.

## **WHAT:**

- Practical, hands-on course intended to help you connect with God through prayer
- Designed around Paul Miller's book *A Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Distracting World*

## **WHY:**

- Helps Christians who are tired of struggling with prayer or who have given up altogether
- Learn a system of praying that helps see the story that God is wearing in your life
- Encourages and equips you to be more serious and intentional about your prayer life

**WHERE:** College Church Sanctuary

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

## **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.*

**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

**Serve with Your Son**—We would like to extend an opportunity to you to serve alongside your teenage son(s), as there is no other bond like serving together. The church would like to ask you to 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.

**Kids' Harbor**—Our ministry to infant through sixth graders. There are opportunities on Sundays and Wednesdays and occasional special services. To learn more or if you're interested in serving:

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. To get involved in an upcoming activity or learn more about the ministry 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.



# BOOKSTORE NOW OPEN

We're grateful to be a part of this thriving Christian community, and hope you'll find us to be a refreshing and valued resource as you grow in your faith, minister to others, and resource your church. We look forward to any ideas you might share, because as a local business, we're here to serve.



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## **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@sbcglobal.net](mailto:christews@sbcglobal.net).

## TODAY'S PANELISTS:

Tom Klobucher: Tom is a future based entrepreneur and Founder/C.E.O. of Thomas Interior Systems, Inc. His firm's focus is to help organizations throughout the Chicago land area create Great Places To Work, and their mission is to Improve The Office Work Environment. Over thirty five years ago, as a young Christian and a new father, Tom was challenged by his pastor to take up the important role of "father prayer warrior" for his young family. Since then, he has established a daily "habit" of covering his family and extended family with prayer, and has mentored and encouraged other men to consistently do the same. Tom and his wife Carol reside in Wheaton and have been members of College Church for 14 years.

Al Duvel: Al has been practicing internal medicine in Glen Ellyn with the DuPage Medical Group for 33 years. He grew up in South Africa and came to the USA in 1972. Al and his wife Mary (an MK) dated in high school and later married. For four and a half years they were medical missionaries with TEAM at Mosvold Mission Hospital in Zululand, SA. Al and Mary have been at College Church since 1992. They have two children, Shirleen (married to Andrew) and Belinda. Caleb and Ella are two precious grand children and the joy of their lives.

## QUESTIONS FOR TODAY:

1. What did Tom Nussbaum share in his testimony that stood out to you today?
2. What did the panel share that you could identify with?
3. What are some of your preconceived ideas about prayer? Are they different now that you have heard this discussion?
4. Discuss some ways that you've used prayer in your life that have been meaningful to you or your family.
5. What challenges stand between you and a fruitful prayer life?

**NOTES:**

Be sure to join us for our next meeting  
on December 10

**MEN'S GATHERING DATES**

December 10

January 14

February 11

March 11

April 8

May 13

June 10