



The Outer Leaf

Live Oaks
Community Church

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"Leading edge news and views of the ministries of Live Oaks Community Church"

This Is What I Think About You!

If you teach or lead our children in J-kids (on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings) or serve to lead or teach our youth in Element 26, have you ever wondered what I, your pastor, think of you? I do not want you to wonder any longer... I think what you do is one of the most important ministries of the church! You play a huge role in the formation of a young person whose heart is after God's. I think that the church will never be or become what God intends without you! I think you are GREAT!

In Jeremiah 1:5-7 God said to the prophet Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I set you apart; I have appointed you as a prophet to the nations." "Ah, Sovereign Lord," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you."

What is important to note in this scripture is that God's call on Jeremiah's life and our life predates our birth. He created us with a purpose – with gifting and a calling to fulfill that purpose!

The role of children and youth leaders is to partner with parents (and God) in training a young person in the way that they should go and when they are old they will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6) We are to help young people understand that they have always been on God's mind. He has a purpose and plan for their life. They have never been off His mind. He wants them to know Him and His love as they work in faith and fellowship beside Him.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to everyone at Live Oaks who gives of their time, energy, and resources in ministry to our young disciples! What you do on Sunday morning's matters! What you do in the Element 26 and Prince Caspian small groups on Wednesday evening's matters! What you did at VBS mattered! What you did at last weekends Element 26 retreat in the Kansas City area mattered! Testimonies about kids' decisions for Christ and steps in obedience to Christ through these ministry efforts are still surfacing... We are grateful for your partnership with us (parents) in providing structured opportunities for our kids to experience... fellowship with the living Lord and believers in the church, growth in their knowledge of God and faith, and identify and develop their gifts and calling in partnering with God to build up His body, transform our world and bring others into His family.

You may never know what an impact your ministry is having on the life and future of the young ones and students under your care... but rest assured with each prayer, valuing conversation, and lesson taught in love you are moving them forward in their walk with Christ and helping them add valuable knowledge, attitudes and spiritual skills to their growing faith. Thank you for fanning the flames of the gifts God has placed within our kids while protecting them in each stage of maturity. Your whole church family highly esteems you and your work with our kids.

Always holding you fondly in my thoughts and prayers,

Pastor Kelley



BACK TO SCHOOL



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!!

Whether you are in elementary school, middle school, high school, college, or a teacher — we pray now for a great school year for each of you! Welcome to the start of the 08-09 year!

WHAT'S ON YOUR NIGHTSTAND??

This month we asked David and Vanessa Mendenhall what some of their current reads have been. David only had one book (other than his Bible, of course). But don't worry, Vanessa more than made up for David's lack of reading time....read on to find out more!

1. **What are you currently reading?**

David - The First Two Years of Youth Ministry

Vanessa - Hmm, I am reading several books right now. This could get confusing! I am working on the second book of the Babylon Rising Series by Tim LaHaye, titled "The Secret of Ararat" (the first book is "Babylon Rising"). The next book in the series is titled "Europa" and I will read that next!

I also just finished "Yada Yada Gets Decked Out". This is book 7 in the Yada Yada series - which is my all-time favorite series!

I recently purchased "Dreaming in Technicolor" by Laura Jensen Walker. This is a sequel to "Dreaming in Black and White".

I also purchased "The Potluck Club", "The Potluck Club Takes the Cake", and "The Potluck Club Trouble's Brewing".

And I am reading two books by the author Ray Blakston titled "A Delirious Summer" and "Lost in Rooville".

2. **Do you have a favorite author or series?**

Vanessa—Yes - Francine Rivers and Neta Jackson are my two favorite authors - no way I could narrow it down to just one! And, as I said above, the "Yada Yada" series is my favorite.

3. **Would you be willing to loan any of these books out?**

Vanessa—Let me know if you are interested in any of these books!

God's Coffee

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. Conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life.

Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups - porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite - telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

When all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said: "If you noticed, all the nice looking expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress.

Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases it is just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink.

What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups... And then you began eyeing each other's cups.

Now consider this: Life is the coffee; the jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain Life, and the type of cup we have does not define, nor change the quality of Life we live.

Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us."

God brews the coffee, not the cups..... Enjoy your coffee!

