

The Vine Inspiration

“GOODBYE SUMMER” EDITION

“I am the Vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me, you can do nothing”. John 15:5

Fresh from the desk of...

Yes, it is definitely that time of year for all of us who are students. The summer is coming to a close and we are mental and physically preparing for the arduous task of returning to classes. Ok, maybe it is more “arduous” for some than others, but needless to say, it is still the end of our summer. Over the long hot days, many of us have laughed, played, cried and endured through things that have helped build us into the people we are today. Some of us have even found ourselves and/or reaffirmed who we are in Christ. It is a new year, for those of you who felt as though you could have done better in the last school year. For all of us who will be returning to some educational “facility”, make it worth it and do what the Lord has called you to do...your best in Christ!! Be blessed and allow the Lord to use you in ways you never thought possible.



~Righteous Breed, Editor-In-Chief (EIC) ~



Keys to the Kingdom...

Have you acquired all of the knowledge and wisdom you will ever need? Of course not!! We are continuously growing and learning, obtaining new information and making choices everyday. Our choices in life should be guided by principles that help us grow and flourish; what better principles are there than those in God’s Word. So many people use Biblical principles without even knowing where they came from. They prosper due to the Word of God and they hold keys to open up locks that build character, businesses, relationships, etc. Below are a few “keys” that will help you unlock some of the mysteries that God has set aside for His children. Are you a child of the King? Then you need to eat from the Master’s table... RB

God is in Control – [1 Corinthians 13:12](#)

It’s 100 percent true that God is good and that He’s in control. But these facts don’t prevent bad things from happening. It’s within the Lord’s power to give everyone a perfect life, but that wouldn’t be in our best interest. Trials and suffering often drive people to God. For those of us who are believers, God uses harsh circumstances to mature our faith and conform us to the image of His Son. Being made perfect and pleasing to our Father is indeed in our best interest.

In His knowledge and wisdom, God may allow disaster and evil to touch our lives so we can grow from the experience. Whether it’s in compassion, trust, or knowledge, growth is good. If we could peek behind the scenes of our life, we’d see the Lord in control and working toward His ultimate purpose for us.

Romans 8:28 affirms this when it says, “We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” On occasion, we see immediate positive results from trials. But other times, we must wait months, years, or even until we reach heaven to fully understand what God was doing in those difficult circumstances.

Suffering and evil are inevitable parts of a fallen world. But we can be sure that God is in control of the universe, including the tiny corner we occupy. When He permits bad things to happen, we can be sure He will continue to provide comfort and guidance. He will shape us into the people He wants us to be.

By Dr. Charles Stanley

Victory Christian Assembly Celebrates 18 Years of Family and Friends

Pastor, Dr. Melvin Jenkins, and Victory Christian Assembly celebrated their 18th annual Family and Friends Weekend on March 30 through April 1. For the past 18 years, members and students who attend Victory Christian Assembly, or VCA, invite local family and friends, or in the case of students, family and friends from their hometowns to participate in church activities.

On Friday, VCA welcomed Pastor Kevin Harper from Sharon Hill Christian Center, who spoke about seeing yourself as God sees you. The message was to encourage the members and students to pursue God and His promises no matter what life situations may bring. The service also included artistic demonstrations from the church's dance team, Creative Prayze, and song selections from IUP's Voices of Joy.

The fellowship continued on Saturday, this time focusing on ministry; enabling the youth to "give their gifts and talents back to the Lord". This "Ministry Day" allowed the youth to express themselves in many different forms—drum solos, singing, dancing, poetry, and so much more. Choir member Caroline Adesida said, "We [the IUP Voices of Joy] got to minister to one another. It is great that we all had a chance to come together as a community and fellowship together." Jenkins says that Family and Friends Weekend has turned into a revival "unintentionally."

Pastor Jenkins and Assistant Pastor David Hanson came up with this event idea while attending a church seminar. The presenter said that having a special event was a great way to get a church to grow. VCA has been growing ever since—from holding services in the HUB, to buying its own church, now to expanding its current property in 2006.

Considering the past Family and Friends weekends, Pastor Jenkins says that the 2006 event was the most memorable. "Family and Friends Weekend 2006 was very special because of the IUP Voices of Joy's live recording of their debut album 'No Turning Back' and our moving into the new sanctuary.", stated Jenkins

Family and Friends weekend is an event that is expected to continue for years to come. Jenkins and Hanson hope this special weekend continues to touch the lives of the students and members of VCA. They also hope that this event will not only spark life changes in the hearts of the students and members, but also in the hearts of the Indiana community.

If you wish to know more about Victory Christian Assembly, please visit the church website at www.myvictory.org.

Article by student writer Melody Tisinger



Celebrate with the IUP Voices of Joy as they present their debut CD "There is No Turning Back"



YES! It is finally here. The well anticipated debut CD from the IUP Voices of Joy Gospel Choir. Packed with plenty of hand clapping, soul reaching, spirit lifting "original" music, this CD was worth the wait. VOJ worked hard on this project with long rehearsals sometimes resulting in short tempers and little patience. Though there were some trying times, as grueling as recording sessions can get, the choir pulled through and presented a professional work of artistry and skill that all should be proud of. With a number of guest singers adding to the flair of the already versatile choir, the CD is power packed with various styles of gospel music. There is something for everyone to fall in love with.

The message is clear on this CD and Jesus is the reason for this season of forward movement as the leadership, Pastors Jenkins and Hanson, may soon begin to see greater fruits of their 20 year labor. With the CD reaching homes all over the world, via the internet, it is not hard to foresee that this recording is just the beginning. As easily as typing "IUP VOICES OF JOY" in Google, VOJ pops up with a number of sites to choose from. This is definitely a time for preparation as the IUP Voices of Joy may soon be esteemed with choirs of John P. Kee, Hezekiah Walker and the like. Yes, they are that good, and if you think they are great on the CD, wait until you hear them live.

Visit us at Victory Christian Assembly every Sunday morning for worship at 11:00 AM.

We always look forward to visitors and new members. If you do not have a church home, we ask you to... Consider Victory!!

Words to Live By

GET OUT OF THE BOAT!

Many of us have been dragging our gifts and talents behind us, giving excuses as to why we are not fully functioning in them. Well, it is time to take heart. If Peter had never seized the opportunity to take those precious steps onto the water with Christ, he would have never known that he could walk on water. (Matt 14:22-33)

The key to his success was the fact that he kept his eyes on Christ. The minute he looked around him, he panicked and he sank! I have no doubt that he must have been highly emotional inside, but he pressed beyond his emotions to do what **we perceive** as the impossible. But this scripture clearly shows us that **NOTHING** is impossible with God!!!

You may think getting over whatever keeps you from moving in your abilities/gifts/calling, etc. is impossible, but stop looking around you. You are causing yourself to sink. It is time to place your focus on Christ. He is calling you to...
"GET OUT OF THE BOAT!!"

-RB

