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What does it mean to be engaged? In a dating relationship it means to commit to marry another person and move to a deeper level of commitment before entering into the covenant relationship of marriage – becoming one.

Engaged couples behave differently than dating couples. She wears a ring, they take engagement pictures and tell everyone their engagement stories. They plan the wedding, and make plans for life together after the wedding. They don't just talk about these things, they live it.

Being "engaged" in the life and ministry of Country Hills Church means choosing to be a part of our church family with the goal of helping each other and anyone we can to follow Jesus – "People Helping People Follow Jesus." We do this by moving beyond simply attending now and then to participating regularly in opportunities to grow spiritually (like Sunday services). We also do this by building deeper connections with others through opportunities like Small Groups, and by serving regularly together. At first glance this might seem like a ploy to up attendance numbers, increase giving, or boost the status of the "institution." But it's not; it's for you, and others at Country Hills, and for the world around you.

It's our hope to see you move forward in your level of engagement at CHC because we want you to move forward in your relationship with

(Continued on page 2)

Jesus. We hope to see people move from attending (like dating), to regular participation (like engagement), to membership (like marriage). The more "engaged" you are the more likely you will grow in your relationship with Jesus. The more "engaged" you are the more likely you will develop deep friendships with other followers of Jesus who you can love and support, who can love and support you, and who you can serve alongside to love and serve a world that desperately needs Jesus.

Is engagement important? You bet! So, I encourage you to be more "engaged" this spring because I believe that how we follow Jesus outside of church is connected to how we follow Him inside it. Are you growing spiritually, building deeper relationships with others, and serving regularly? If not, I want you to consider that it might be you who is missing out on some of the ways God wants to work in your life, and through your life in the lives of others. So, I guess in a way I'm asking "will you marry us?"



Missions Update

Azarm's

We continue to pray for the Azarm family. The Azarm's are missionaries supported by Country Hills Church who use radio and media to tell people about Jesus. The Azarm family broadcast their programs into countries in Asia that are not open to the Gospel. We protect their identity by not sharing first names or the specific countries they are evangelizing to.

The Azarm's have recently lost family members, a mother and a sister-in-law. We are asking everyone at Country Hills to lift this family up in prayer during their time of grief; we pray that they lean on Jesus during this difficult time.

Please pray for wisdom and healing for the Azarm's as they continue their work. We pray that everyone in Asia who still needs to hear the Good News about Jesus discovers this radio program and other programs like it. We pray that those who hear these programs open their hearts and with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, understand the need for Jesus in their lives.

Thank you for supporting the Azarm's and upholding them and their ministry in prayer.

Thank you for supporting our Missionaries / Projects through prayer. Please consider supporting our Peru Mission Projects by joining us for a fundraising lunch on April 7.

More info is available on the back of this newsletter.

Rainy Gaze - Jeremy Stuart

Bitterly

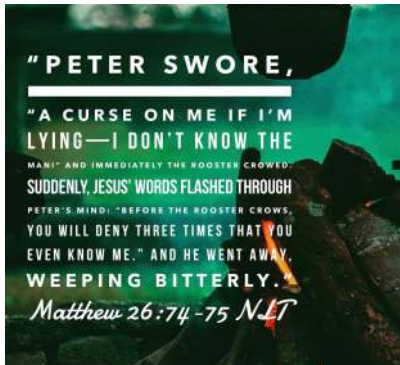
Have you ever been so ashamed, and so sorry for something you've done that you find a quiet space by yourself where you can weep bitterly? Peter, one of Jesus' disciples knew this well.

Consider the following passages:

"No!" Peter insisted. "Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!" And all the other disciples vowed the same." Matthew 26:35 (NLT)

Then Peter denies even knowing Jesus 3 times while Jesus is on trial.

"Suddenly, Jesus' words flashed through Peter's mind: "Before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me." And he went away, weeping bitterly." Matthew 26:75 (NLT)



Wow, in just a few short days all of Peter's resolve and intentions to follow Jesus are dissolved into bitter tears. Jesus is crucified and buried, and Peter is left with the realization that he denied even knowing Jesus. How do you come back from that? Well ... you

often don't ... on your own. Forgiving someone else is hard enough but removing the shame and guilt from our own hearts is near impossible for many people.

Many of our past choices have long term consequences, but new life with Jesus means that He lives in us so we can live in a new way. So we don't have to make the same mistakes, and we can bring restoration where we have brought destruction. The problem for many people, though, is we can't forgive ourselves. It seemed to be that way with Peter, and Jesus' resurrection power changed his heart too.

After rising from the dead Jesus asks Peter 3 times (the same number as his denial) if he loved Jesus. After Peter said yes, Jesus speaks to him about his identity and calling as a shepherd of people. Jesus helped Peter do the heart work he needed to follow Jesus free from the shame & discouragement of his sin. Jesus can do the same for you. He will transform your bitter tears into restoration. As you consider where you find it hard to forgive yourself, know that Jesus already has, and gives you the opportunity to follow Him in a new way. May you forgive yourself as Jesus has forgiven you, and may you follow Him by living a new way through His resurrection power.



CHURCH LIBRARY

"Love the Lord your God with all your mind."



New in the Library

Fiction

The Bachelor Girls' Guide to Murder - Rachel MacMillan
Starting from Scratch - Kate Lloyd
The Methuselah Project - Rick Barry
To the Moon and Back - Karen Kingsbury
The View from Rainshadow Bay - Colleen Coble
When You Believe - Deborah Bedford
The Dragons of Chiril - Danita K. Paul

Christian Living

Whole: Hope for the Pastor's Wife - Jennifer Willcock
Anger: Taming a Powerful Emotion - Gary Chapman
Redeeming Ruth - Meadow Rue Merrill
Scary Close - Donald Miller
Stolen - Katarina Rosenblatt
Play the Man - Mark Batterson

DVDs

The Easter Perspective - Small Group Study
Mirror Image - Small Group Study
The Perfect Stranger - Inspirational
To Joey, With Love - True Story
Adrenaline - Entertainment
Joseph and His Brethren - Biblical Story
The Prefect Summer - Entertainment
Find a Way - Entertainment

Check out our new mobile library station...

Whether you want to read fiction to pass time, watch a wholesome movie, enjoy reading with / to your kids or grow in your spiritual walk - our CHC library has what you need! Check out the mobile station at the back of the church on Sundays or for even greater selection visit the library downstairs.

Student Ministry JR High - Gr. 7 – 8 High School - Gr. 9 – 12

**Junior High and High School students meet
Wednesday evenings 7 - 9 pm at the church**

Wednesday, April 3 - Famous Last Words

This week we'll be talking about how we need to learn to trust who God is even when we don't quite understand everything. If you think there isn't anyone left to trust because everyone lets you down, this week is for you.



Wednesday, April 10 - Famous Last Words

This week we'll talk about Jesus - how He died and rose again because He loves us so much. Have you ever heard of a dead person coming back to life? Are you curious how that can happen? This is your week.



Wednesday, April 17 - Famous Last Words

This week we'll be talking about how, even when we fail, God loves us unconditionally. If you feel like nobody can love you because of a mistake you made, this is a great week for you to come.



Wednesday, April 24 - Fun Night

You won't want to miss this night! Come out and have some fun - the event will be a surprise! Invite a friend to join us!



Follow us on Instagram at [chc.youth](https://www.instagram.com/chc.youth)



Did you know that you're being prayed for? Every student in our church has someone praying for them.

Lighthouse Pro Events (Grade 5 & 6)

Saturday, April 13 - Big Games Night

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Meet at the church for games, action and fun!

Bring a snack and a friend.

Please sign up with Gina Cowan if you're interested in attending

Email confirmations can be sent to gcowan@countryhillchurch.ca



Communication Form

We want to keep in touch and help you get / stay connected here at CHC. **Please complete, tear off, and drop this card in the offering basket or give it to one of our ushers or Pastor Jeremy at the conclusion of the service.**

Name (s) _____

Children _____

Address _____

City _____

Postal _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

- I am updating information
- I would like a family mailbox
- I would like offering envelopes
- I would like to sign up for pre-authorized giving
- I would like to be contacted by a pastor
- I would like to be added to the church directory
- I give consent to receive electronic communication from the church (email)
- I agree to allow my name and/or photo and those of my family to be used in publications distributed within the church or on its website.

Signed _____

Date _____

Due to privacy considerations, we cannot include any family in the church directory who has not given us written authorization to do so.

Upcoming Sermons



Sunday, April 7

"Gethsemane Prayer & Betrayal"

Matthew 26 : 31 - 46

Speaker, Mike Wasyluk

Sunday, April 14 - Palm Sunday

"Betrayal, Trials & Torture"

Mark 14 : 53 - 72, Mark 15: 1 - 20

Friday, April 19 - Good Friday

"Crucifixion & Burial"

Mark 15: 21 - 47

Sunday, April 21 - Easter Sunday

"Resurrection"

Luke 23: 56 to Luke 24: 53

Sunday, April 28 - Membership

"Inspired Hope" 1Thess. 1: 1 - 10

Speaker, Randall Benbow

Pre-Authorized Giving

Why is pre-authorized giving so popular?

Recently some of our pre-authorized donors were asked why they use this option. Please see the enclosed insert to find out what they said.

Pre-authorized giving is one of the least expensive and convenient options for you and the church.

If you wish to sign up for pre-authorized giving, simply fill out the insert form and place it in the offering basket or email Jennifer at jschuit@countryhillchurch.ca

April Calendar of Events

Wednesday, April 3

Growing in Grace
7 - 9 pm

Thursday, April 4

Men's Bible Study
7 pm

Sunday, April 7

Peru Fundraiser Lunch
11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Tuesday, April 9

Prayer & Worship Gathering
7 - 8:15 pm

Wednesday, April 10

Growing in Grace
7 - 9 pm

Thursday, April 11

Forever Young
12 pm

Saturday, April 13

Men's Promise Keepers Event
8 am - 4 pm

Saturday, April 13

Men's Breakfast
7:30 - 8:15 am

Saturday, April 13

Young Adult Bowling
7 pm

Saturday, April 13

Lighthouse Pro
6:30 - 8:30 pm

Sunday, April 14

Palm Sunday

Tuesday, April 16

Photography Group
7 pm

Wednesday, April 17

Growing in Grace
7 - 9 pm

Thursday, April 18

Men's Bible Study
7 pm

Friday, April 19

Good Friday Service
10 am

Sunday, April 21

Easter Sunday Service
10 am

Wednesday, April 24

Growing in Grace
7 - 9 pm

Sunday, April 28

Annual Business Meeting
6 - 8 pm

Wednesday, May 1

Growing in Grace
7 - 9 pm

Thursday, May 2

Men's Bible Study
7 pm

Peru Fundraiser Lunch

Sunday, April 7, 11:30 am

Join us for lunch - support Peru!
Cost is \$7 / person or \$25 / family
Menu will be a chicken dish, salad and a kids option of spaghetti & meatballs with veggies sticks (gluten free option will be available). Alan Garrett, Director of Isaiah's Projects will share the impact that the family ministry program is having in Peru. Pat & Eric Carlson will be doing 2 conferences this year in Lima and Cajamarca.

Young Adult Event

Saturday, April 13 at 7 pm

Kingpin Bowlounge - Bowling

425 Bingemans Centre Drive
Kitchener, Ontario
\$21 / person
Sign up on Facebook or email Jeremy

Contact

Jeremy Shuart

Forever Young

Thursday, April 11, 12 pm

If you're 55 and older you're invited to join us for our monthly luncheon and fellowship time. Enjoy a nutritious and delicious meal prepared by Chris Frank for only \$10.

This month our special speaker is Randall Benbow.

Contact Lucille Waito

waitogogoose@icloud.com

Easter Services

Good Friday / Easter Sunday

Pray - Bless - Invite

This Easter Season share Jesus with someone. Pray for them, bless them and invite them to our Easter Services.

On Easter Sunday bring a nut-free dessert, prepped & plated to share after service as we celebrate the Resurrection.

Good Friday

Friday, April 19
10 am

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 21
10 am

Men's Promise Keepers

Saturday, April 13, 8:30 am start

A special one day men's conference combining a large event experience with focused workshops on a variety of topics. The day features a wide variety of workshops, a powerful main session and live worship with hundreds of other men.

Annual Membership Meeting

Sunday, April 28 at 6 pm

Please join us for our Annual Business Meeting. Let's gather together and reflect on what God has been doing at CHC over the past year and look forward to where He is leading us in 2019.

Meeting packages will be available on April 14. Join us in room 8/9 at 6 pm on Sunday, April 28.