

God manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. 2 Cor. 2:14

Imitate the Image *by Doug Cullen*

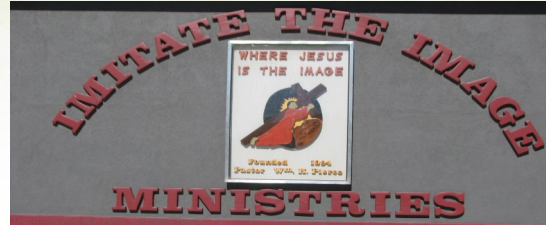
Life greetings from Choose Life Ministries,

Over the years we have either seen or spoken in churches with some very unique names. For instance, in our travels we once saw a church with the name "Launch Pad Baptist." Not sure if they were referring to Christians or rockets? We did not speak at Launch Pad Baptist, but we have spoken in about 980 churches so far. Some of my favorite names of churches we have spoken at are New Life Baptist, Peace Baptist, Our Faith Baptist, and Second Chance Baptist. But my all-time favorite church name is Imitate the Image. Until recently, I did not give much thought to this very Biblically named church. But what a concept we find in the name of this church, "Imitate the Image". This, put simply, means less of me more of Jesus. Again what a concept we find here, a concept I think we have lost sight of. John 3:30 states, I must decrease while Jesus must increase. This a very important and ignored TRUTH in our very self-absorbed churches today. But how many of us struggle with this issue almost daily? I know I do. If we want to see change in our lives, our families, and our churches we need to imitate the Image, the Image of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior who gave His LIFE so we could have eternal LIFE.

However, too many times in life we are worried about our own image, rather than the image of Jesus. As parents, we often do not want our children to do certain things that might tarnish our "image" (this is why some parents force their daughters to get abortions, because they do not want their daughter's teen pregnancy to reflect badly on them). Employers/businesses are concerned about employees tarnishing the image of the business/employer, and even Christian schools/Universities do not want to get a bad reputation, but instead want their students to give the school a good image. And it even goes as far as our relationship to the church: for heaven's sake do not put dirt on the church name or image. But how often do we as Christians think about how our behavior will affect the image we present of Jesus to the world? Above everything else, we, as parents, employers/employees, church members, students, and faculty/staff at Christian schools, should be focused on "Imitating the Image of Jesus Christ." All the other self-images will take care of themselves.

Blessed by the BEST!

Doug CLM



Praise & Prayer Requests

www.chooselifeusa/prayer

- ♦ We PRAISE the Lord for allowing us the opportunity to share the gospel at Joli's mom's memorial service and for the 25 who prayed to be saved!
- ♦ Praise God for the open doors! 26 Churches in NC.
- ♦ Pray for Joli and her family in the passing of her mom.
- ♦ Pray for our health. Joli will be having sinus surgery in October in Charlotte, NC.
- ♦ Pray for open doors of opportunity in 2015.
- ♦ Pray for Caitlyn's 10 week training in Richmond, VA, as she prepares to go overseas to teach the Deaf.
- ♦ Pray for those who have made decisions for Christ.

Events

www.chooselifeusa.org/events

- ♦ Sept. 21st Riverside Baptist in Miami, FL
- ♦ Sept. 28th King's Way in Homestead, FL
- ♦ Oct. 10th to Oct. 31st Charlotte, NC
- ♦ Nov. 2nd East Bernstadt in London, KY
- ♦ Nov. 4th Clear Creek Baptist Bible College Chapel
- ♦ Nov. 9th, 2014, to Feb. 22nd, 2015, we will be in Western, Kentucky. (Please check the website)

Also remember 40 days for life's prayer to end abortion in America begins September 24th and ends November 2nd.

www.40daysforlife.com

"Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light." Ephesians 5:14

In the Bible version, The Message, it says, "wake up from sleep and climb out of your coffins." That really paints a picture in my mind. Think about it for a moment. Right now it seems that death has won and life has been defeated, but that is not the case. Life has won! So why are we sleeping in coffins?

Let me just there are no accidents and praise the Lord! One morning in July, Joli had just received news that her mom had taken a turn for the worse. As we spent that morning making decisions and phone calls, I noticed I had missed a call and that I had a voicemail. It was from a man who said he had “accidentally” called my number when trying to reach his sister, and in his message he also asked me to pray for his father who was in bad health and was on his way to the hospital. I called him back and prayed with him on the phone for his father to be healed, and then he asked me, “will you pray with me to be saved?” The angels in heaven rejoiced! A few days later the man called back and said that his father was going to be fine!

Then, later on in September, we were packing up to leave NC, after being settled there in a house for three months and it was a very hectic time. In the midst of all the chaos I got a phone call and almost did not answer it. But PTL I did! A young woman had been told by her friend to give me a call, and the first words out of her mouth were, “I’m pregnant and thinking about having an abortion, can you talk me out of it?” She and I talked, and I shared with her how precious that little baby was and how precious she was to God. Then I asked her if she had ever received Christ as her savior to which she replied, “no”. She then said that she would like to pray to be saved, so I prayed with her and we rejoiced together. I put some of our brochures about her baby’s development and other helpful information in the mail to her and at this writing we are not sure what she decided to do, but we know God has this young woman and her baby in His care!

It's all about Life! *By Joli Cullen*

It's God's Grand Plan! LIFE! Don't you see? He is our Maker. He determines our days and numbers them. He has a plan for good works for us to do as believers in Jesus. We live in a world where our value is based on what we can or cannot do with our physical body. But life is so much more than what we see on the outside. A believer who is sick and on their way out of this world and on into eternity is a witness to the truth of the reality of God and the reality that He is faithful and good and loves us so much! How many testimonies do we hear of believers who see Jesus in their last days? Many tell the story and then pass away, but some have even shared the story and then continued to live on this earth. Oh, but we get caught up in the suffering. We focus on the temporal rather than on the eternal. We focus on the person losing dignity as they lose ability, yet that is just the outward appearance. And I do believe people deserve to have dignity in their last days, but their life does not need to be snuffed out early. Life is about the spirit inside (2 Cor. 4:16). We do not want to shorten a person's life who is not a believer, because they need every opportunity and time to make a decision to believe. Who are we to try to cut that short? God is the giver and taker of human life. “In His hand is the soul of every living thing and the breath of all mankind” (Job 12:10). And we do not want to take the life of someone who is a believer before the right time, as they need every opportunity to be a witness and testimony to their family and friends. Yet it is so hard because we see their suffering and we think it is better if it ends quickly. I want to assure you, a child of God is in the arms of Jesus and He carries them through their suffering and often times they will have a supernatural strength and resilience. And if a person does not believe, then God can use this time to show them He is ready and waiting so that they do not spend eternity separated from the Lord and suffering for all eternity. “God is long suffering, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2nd Peter 3:9).

