

Seek the welfare of the city ... And pray to the Lord on its behalf - **JEREMIAH 29:7 (NASB®)**

A Word from Our Pastor

Therefore it says, "When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." – Ephesians 4:8

A captive surrenders all rights and authority over his life. Jesus calls us to a life of surrender.

In The Incredible Power of Kingdom Authority Dr. Adrian Rogers tells of a conversation with Romanian pastor Josef Tson, who suffered during the Communist reign in his country.

As Josef and I rode in his car, I said, "Josef, tell me about American Christianity."

He said, "Adrian, I had rather not."

I said, "No, I want to know."

"Well, Adrian, since you have asked me, I'll tell you. The key word in American Christianity is commitment."

I said, "That's good, isn't it, Josef?"

"No, it is not. As a matter of fact, the word commitment did not come into great usage in the English language until about the 1960s. In Romania, we do not even have a word to translate the English word 'commitment.' If you were to use commitment in your message tonight, I would not have a proper word to translate it with."

Josef continued, "When a new word comes into usage, it generally pushes an old word out. I began to study and found the old word that commitment replaced. Adrian, the old word that is no longer in vogue in America is the word surrender."

"Josef," I asked, "what is the difference between commitment and surrender?"

He said, "When you make a commitment, you are still in control, no matter how noble the thing you commit to. One can commit to pray, to study the Bible, to give money, or to commit to automobile payments, or to lose weight. Whatever he chooses to do, he commits to it. But surrender is different. If someone holds a gun and asks you to lift your hands in the air as a token of surrender, you don't tell that person what you are committed to. You simply surrender and do as you are told."

"Americans love commitment, because they are still in control. But the key word is surrender. We are to be slaves of the Lord Jesus Christ."

Let's not to renew our commitment, but rather remember our surrender.

By His Grace,



- **Christopher M. Coury**
Senior Pastor



TGCA A Culture of Kindness



Be sure that no one pays back wrong for wrong. But always try to do what is good for each other and all people. 1Thessalonians 5:15

What if our nation practiced doing what is good for others instead of self? What if we practiced it?

Our mission is to provide a complete education which promotes academic excellence and a biblical worldview. It is the goal of TGCA to equip students with the intellect and character they need to impact their world.

The first semester is behind us and we are half-way through our basketball season. The month of December was packed with events like our preschool & elementary Christmas Programs, Drama Presentation, Breakfast with Santa, and our Flea Market. We are in the process of gearing up for our Spring sports, baseball, girls' soccer, and track.

Homecoming at TGCA on January 6 was exciting as always. The atmosphere was electric with banners hung around the gym, the crowd cheering the teams on, alumni reminiscing with teachers, and great basketball as the Tigers went head to head with Blue Ridge. In late February

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Tower Grove Staff

Christopher M. Coury

Chad Logan

Michael L. Gregory

Nancy Craig

Kathi Smith

Donna Kohlberg

Jim McNeil

Zachary Treadway

Mandy Hanson

Joel Akridge

Gary Brownfield

Katie Gregory

Ruth Menke

Patricia Picker

Dolly Meyer

Chad W. Smith

Senior Pastor

Worship and Education Pastor

Head of School

Preschool Director

Elementary School Principal

Vice Principal

Pastoral Minister / Staff Evangelist

Missions Director

Children's Director

School Chaplain

Bible Study Director

School Clerk

Financial Secretary

Children's Assistant

Office Support

Office Manager

Contact Us

Tower Grove Baptist Church

314.865.HOPE (4673)

towergrove.org

Tower Grove Christian Academy

314.PROMISE (776.6473)

Preschool - 12th Grade

towergrovechristian.org

Logan's Letter

I want to tell you a story. I've told it to some of you before, but I want to share it with all of you. It is a tradition in my family for fathers to take sons (or mothers to take daughters) on a trip for their 12th birthday. August 2015 was Ky's 12th birthday. I decided to take him to the Grand Canyon. So, we flew to Las Vegas and drove to the Grand Canyon.

It was the day before we were to fly back and we were back in Las Vegas. We decided to walk from our hotel and find the M&M store. It was about a two mile walk from our hotel. It was hot - like 110 or so. (I don't care if it was a dry heat...it was still hot.) We found the M&M store with no problem and started walking back to the hotel. As we were walking back we came to a place where the sidewalk was closed. The nearest crosswalk was at least a half a mile behind us (if not a mile). It was hot and I was tired and I was NOT going to walk back and retrace my steps. I decided that Ky and I were just going to run across six lanes of traffic of a very busy Las Vegas street. We waited about five minutes or so for the right time to cross and we ran as fast as we could across the street. We made it across the street safely and I didn't have to walk back and retrace my steps! WOO HOO!!!

Once we were on the other side of the street, Ky was walking a few paces behind me. As we were walking I kept hearing sniffing behind me. I looked back and Ky was crying. At first, I thought he was hit by a pebble or something a car stirred up from the street. I turned around and asked him what was wrong. What he said to me stopped me in my tracks.

"Dad, what we did was wrong. We should have gone back and crossed the street where we were supposed to," he said through his tears.

I was stunned. We just jaywalked. Everybody does it in every city every day! Why was he so upset? It really isn't that big of a deal, is it? I mean, I saved us walking an extra mile or more in this heat, didn't I? Can I please get a little appreciation for that?

I was about to say all this to him when something hit me like a ton of bricks. One of the things we had talked about on our trip was living a life of integrity. You see, this trip we were on wasn't just for fun. It was a teaching time that father and son would have to talk about life and what it means to be a man of God. I realized that everything that I had taught him so far was just negated by that one action. We had talked about doing the right thing all the time, and I had just literally caused us to break the law. How could I expect him to listen to what I say when I didn't do it myself? Then I knew exactly what to say. "You're absolutely right, son," I said. "Will you forgive me?"

That moment will stay with me for the rest of my life. It might not seem like a big deal to you, but it is to me. You see, I want my son to look at his dad and know that I live a life of integrity.

Living a life of integrity is hard. It is so easy to flippantly jaywalk, speed, skirt around the rules when the rules inconvenience us, etc. However, God call Christians to live our lives above reproach. Philippians 2:14-16 says

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.

Proverbs 10:9 says: **Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.**

Let's do our best to walk in integrity all the time... not only when it is convenient.



- Chad Logan

Worship and Education Pastor - Romans 12:1-2



MISSION BRIEFING

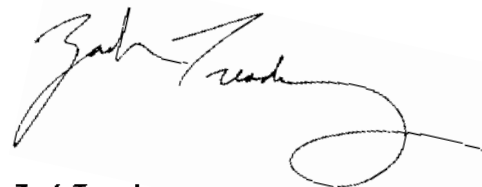
Every year hundreds of new families are resettled in St. Louis from all over the world. This past year nearly 1,500 individuals and families started a new life in our city. This isn't anything new to either the US or to St. Louis. In fact St. Louis has proven to be a great city for refugee resettlement for decades now. Beginning in the late 70s, St. Louis first started receiving Vietnamese refugees, a population that has grown and thrived in our city. In the mid-90s, St. Louis became home to thousands of refugees fleeing conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Today St. Louis has more Bosnian people than any city outside of Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Today we are seeing refugees from Iraq, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Congo, and Syria to name only a few.

Some people in St. Louis have worked for decades now to help these families relocate and acclimate to our city. Ministry and services to refugees are not a new program or a new idea, but one that has taken place in our city for years and something the Bible has taught us to do for centuries. In the Old Testament we can see how God would instruct us to live in regards to refugees: Leviticus 19:33-34 ***"When the alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God."*** In the New Testament we have the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10, and many other verses and teachings, including Hebrews 13:2 ***"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."***

Unfortunately, many churches have not chosen to engage in ministry to refugees in our city and because of that, have missed out on an incredible opportunity to live out the Great Commission right here in our neighborhoods. We are hoping to change that here at **Tower Grove Baptist Church** with the help of our partners in ministry at **St. Louis Metro Baptist Association** and **Oasis International Ministries**. Together we have created a program you hopefully have heard about - The **Good Neighbor Initiative**. This program aims to get our local churches plugged into the refugee community to be a helping hand, a friendly face, a good Samaritan or simply a good neighbor.

The program is simple: **1)** Sign up at **GoodNeighborSTL.com** and agree to a background check; **2)** Attend one training session at **Oasis International Ministry**; **3)** Get matched with a refugee family and schedule a minimum of one visit per month. The refugees in this program have undergone extensive background screening and all church participants are expected to do the same. No one individual will be matched but pairs, couples, or Bible study groups can all be matched with a family. **Oasis International** provides a gift basket to take to the family for your introduction. From there the only requirements are one visit per month and one "check-in" with **GoodNeighborSTL.com** to give us an update on your family. You won't be expected to do anything other than visit your family and be a friendly face. There is no agenda, only making yourself available to what God may do through you and this new relationship.

Please be praying about this opportunity and contact me at **ztreadway@towergrovebc.com**, Darren Casper at St. Louis Metro Baptist Association at 314-571-7570, or visit **goodneighborstl.com**.



Zach Treadway
Missions Director



Children's Corner

The beginning of a new year is a traditional time to reflect on the past and make goals for the future. Often the resolutions we make fail, at least in my case. I have great plans to exercise, eat well, and read more, but I usually get distracted after a couple of weeks at best. The goals, although they are good things, end up being out of reach, unrealistic, or unattainable. It makes me thankful that we serve a God who never fails. He always keeps His promises.

Recently, I did an object lesson with the children about God's power over sin. New Year's Day was the perfect time to think about a "new you". The lesson used bleach, iodine, and water to demonstrate how Jesus can make us completely clean. After pouring the iodine (sin) into the water (you and me) the water turns brown. Sin changes our hearts. Thankfully, we have Jesus. The bleach (Jesus), once poured into the water and iodine, turns the water clear again. I love that the promise Paul proclaims in 2 Corinthians is not out of reach, unrealistic, or unattainable. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" It's my goal this year to spend more time intentionally thanking God for this gift of new life and promises that never fail.



God bless!

Mandy Hanson

-Mandy Hanson
Children's Director



PRESCHOOL PREVIEW

For the LORD loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones...

- Psalm 37:28

God's Blessings continue to flow and TGCA Preschool continues to grow!

We have recently moved a two year old class to the second floor and opened another one year old class to the first floor!

A few months ago, Mr. Gregory said it was his goal to have 150 preschool students by the end of 2017. As we begin this month we now have 140 children enrolled in preschool.

We look forward to serving God in the New Year and are thankful for the many blessings he has bestowed on the preschool already.

It is starting to get busy around here as we enter February also known as the "Love month" and we will be teaching the children all about God's love. We will be celebrating Valentine's Day with parties in the classrooms. The children will also be taking field trips to the Magic House and celebrating Elmo's birthday.

Hopefully March will come in like a Lamb, as we celebrate Dr. Seuss Day, and St. Patrick's Day.

We are looking forward to some April showers, but hopefully not too much rain, as we prepare for Opening Day with our Cardinal Day Birthday Celebration. We will also be having Parent Teacher Conferences this month along with a Scholastic Book Fair. Grandparents will be coming to visit and we will also be celebrating Easter this month.

Please be in prayer for our staff and preschool families.

Nancy Craig

-Nancy Craig
Preschool Director



EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 15, 10:00 am

Bounce House, Easter Bunny, & more!

We will be collecting small, individually wrapped candies for the eggs.

Keep an eye out for further information.

To volunteer to help or to find out more,
please contact Mandy Hanson



TOWER
GROVE
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, February 23
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
tgca.info | 314.PROMISE

towergrove.org | 314.865.HOPE (4673)



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our basketball teams and cheerleaders will travel to Joplin to participate in the annual MCSAA tournament.

We are excited and eager as we gear up for our annual Open House on February 23 from 6-8 pm. If you have a child or know of a child ages 1 year old through 12th grade, we may be your school of choice. TGCA is asking God to give us 1% of all school age children in the city of St. Louis. Big goal? Our Early Childhood Program is growing exponentially it is our desire to build a strong feeder program into the elementary school and the elementary program feeds into our junior high/high school program. God is increasing our numbers daily!

Come out on February 24 for our Trivia Night. This is a way to have some fun, while supporting our school. There are more details on the back cover.

If you have not given to our annual fund/scholarship, we are inviting you to join TGCA in our vision to change the city of St. Louis one student at a time. TGCA is ministering to over 350 students and families in the metro area, we are changing the world through changing the city; please join us in our God-size vision.

God Bless,

Michael L. Gregory

-Michael L. Gregory
Head of School



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An Evening in
HOLLYWOOD
TOWER GROVE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
Trivia Night
Friday, February 24
Doors open at **6:30 pm**, Game play starts at **7:00 pm**
\$200 per team with a max of **8** players per team.
We will also have a silent auction, intermission games, and prizes.
Feel free to bring food and refreshments, and to decorate your table.
For more information or to register call **Amanda @ 314.776.1868**
Please register early to ensure your space.

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