

Would You Defend Your Family from Attack?

This is not a time for giving less time to our kids and marriages, but more. This is a time when families are falling apart and people are becoming emotionally twisted, even developing lifelong problems because of what is happening in their home. If believers don't show the way and act responsibly with honesty and courage... if we don't talk about the hard questions and face the uncomfortable subjects in our own homes, then who will offer help or hope for those sin-sick families? This is crucial time for doing family well.

No, our families aren't going to be perfect—to have a family is to have a multiple problems and occasional crises. The difference is in how we deal with it. In the problem, do you face it, let God in, stay committed, tough it out, allow God to work through and in you so you can work through it? Or will you run?

Marriage and family will bring you face-to-face with problems that are bigger than you. Even if you are present physically, you can leave emotionally, coexisting under the same roof. You can check-out on your kids, check-out on your spouse. Why would a dad who would defend the family from an armed attacker wimp out on a spiritual attack? Dads, your role as protector extends to the souls of your family. A Christian dad has the moral courage to face the creeping moral and spiritual problems in his house.

The problems are bigger than we are—but we know someone who is bigger than the problem: our mighty God. We need strong men and women in our homes—who find that strength and courage in the Lord.

On the American frontier there was no real system of law enforcement, and you needed a gun to protect your family—it's different now. Today, the forces against your family are spiritual and moral.

The nature of defending your family has changed—it now involves a tremendous need for strong leadership, responsible actions. It is a battle for the hearts of children and teens and moms and dads. It has to do with the underlying values, teachings and world view in all forms of media and entertainment. It has to do with the stories and scripts and definitions of what's normal, what is right and wrong and how all of this lodges itself in the hearts of our families.

We need dads and moms who are spiritually strong, morally courageous. Who wear out the knees of their pants in prayer to God. Who can stare a family problem, a marriage crisis in the eye and not blink, because they are finding their strength in Jesus.

Often the passivity of not making a decision can be one of the most unloving, destructive things you can do to your family—to run away by not deciding. To decide by giving up. To fail from lack of trying and decide by not deciding.

We need people of courage and faith who have learned from God how to love fiercely. Not tentatively, conditionally, with fear or cowering. Jesus “set his face” to go to Jerusalem. Have we “set our face” to do anything? Do we believe God? Do we believe his Word is not just one among many truths, but the truth?

If an act of Christ-like courage, an act of conviction and strength occurred in your home, would the kids even recognize it? “What was that?” “Wow!” “Mom believes this.” “Dad really believes this.”

*“Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshipped...and serve the LORD. But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served...or the gods ...in whose land you are living. **But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord!**”*

--Joshua 24:14-15



HELLO BABY! Congratulations to André, Aurora

Carter: on the birth of “Elijah James” this week. He weighed in at 7 pounds, 1 ounce and is 20 ½” long. Nate (3 years old) is his big brother. The happy grandparents are Clarence & Vivian Carter!

Tonight 6:00 PM, **The Young Adults**: meet at the Cooper's home in Pitman. **Carpooling from our building is at 5:30.** See Matt Fort for details.

Friday Youth Group 7 PM meeting at the Gill's home.

The Monthly Ladies Meeting: will be on Thursday, March 25th at 7PM at Nawana's home.

Note for 2010: We skip Celebration Sunday Meals on the months we have "Community Movie Nights".

Today's Worship Leaders

Worship Leader: Gerry Hogan

Main Prayer: Tate Perazzelli **Closing Prayer:** Mark Finn

Lord's Supper: Bill Ceraso, Scott, Tony Ceraso, Jr., Chris Ceraso

Greeters: Bill Gill, Pam Goen, Lillian Nuñez, Jack Swinehart

Nursery: Robin and Sarah Next Week: Kim & Brielle

Yellow Action Team cleans this week. **Norma** coordinating

LOCAL OUTREACH/MINISTRY

Mark Finn - Evangelist

Matt Fortunato - Associate Minister

Church Office- (856) 854-0197

ELDERS:

Rick Boyle (856-986-4876)

Tony Ceraso, Jr.

Jack Swinehart

Worship, total..... 117

Sun. Bible Class68

Wednesday.....47

Contribution..... **\$3,562**

Budget Goal..... \$4,175

Collingswood Church of Christ

Church Website: www.ccc123.org

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Collingswood, NJ 08107

March 21, 2010

Vol. XVIII No. 12

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." (Hebrews 11:1)

Elijah James Carter



Share your faith in 2010

- (1) Pray for people to share with.
- (2) Pray for opportunities to share.
- (3) Pray for courage and compassion.

