



FALL 2018

THE *Able*

LIFE

Stories of ordinary people in the Carmel Family cultivating lives which abide in Christ to build relationships and live the Gospel with everything.

your story
matters.

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FROM TABLE TO ABLE



In September of 2015 we introduced ***The Table*** - a monthly print piece to help keep the Carmel family informed about ministry happenings. It served us well in what was a busy season for the life of our church - our 50th Anniversary, the Cultivate Challenge, construction of the Student Center and more.

With the introduction of our ABLE strategy, we're tweaking our communication tools. We'll still keep you informed, but we want to better celebrate how God is transforming lives at Carmel. So here's the plan:

- Our weekly **eNews** and NEW monthly at-a-glance print piece - ***The LineUp*** - will keep you informed of ministry events and opportunities.
- Our quarterly ***The ABLE Life*** - which you are reading right now - will celebrate what God does when ordinary people seek to make disciples and live lives that abide in Christ so they can build relationships and live the Gospel with everything.

Stories matter. They inspire, challenge, encourage and inform us. We each have one that is God-given and unique. And we want to get better about sharing these stories!

I'm so excited about the ministry season that is underway. In September we explored what we as the Church are for with the city-wide, unified **FORCLT** sermon series. Now through Christmas we will dig into the book of James, to be challenged and equipped on HOW to live the Gospel with everything.

We are a church whose name means "orchard or vineyard." Let's seek His face daily so that we may grow deep roots. Let's surrender what holds us back and allow Him to prune the dead branches in our lives. Let's live an ABLE life so that we can produce much fruit, all for His glory!

Love you Carmel,

Pastor Alex



we are ABLE

What's Your Story?

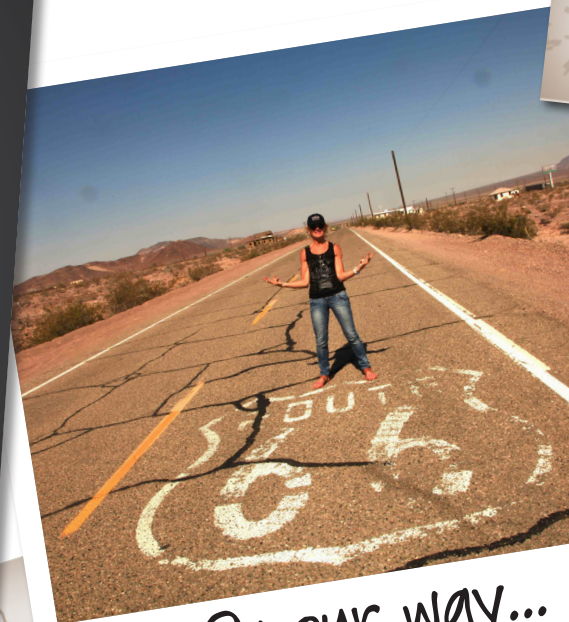
Our ministerial team would love to hear your story! How is God at work in your life? Share your story with a member of our team or email it to pastor@carmelbaptist.org.

REARVIEW MIRROR:

A LOOK BACK AT OUR ROOT 66 JOURNEY

This past summer, we wrapped up a 1 ½ year-long journey through all 66 books of the Bible. Our goal was to better know and understand the greatest story ever - God's story - because in unsteady days, we as believers can and must stand firm on the Word of God. We asked the Carmel family to share their reflections on this epic "road trip" and here is a bit of what was shared:

66 Books
4 Act Drama
2 Halves
Creation→Fall→
Redemption→Return
1 grand love story



On our way...



Route 66 begins...

Among my favorites were the Book of Psalms as it has many campestes to sit and ponder the Glory of the LORD. The Book of Revelation because it emphasizes the importance of witnessing to those whom we love. Our prayer life is intensified for salvation of the world.

J.J.



Route 66 in

I loved every stop on the
Root 66 journey! I look
forward to taking what I
learned and applying it to
the tapestry of my daily life!
It has been an awesome ride!

Lu R.

I'm a better
Christian because
of this trip!

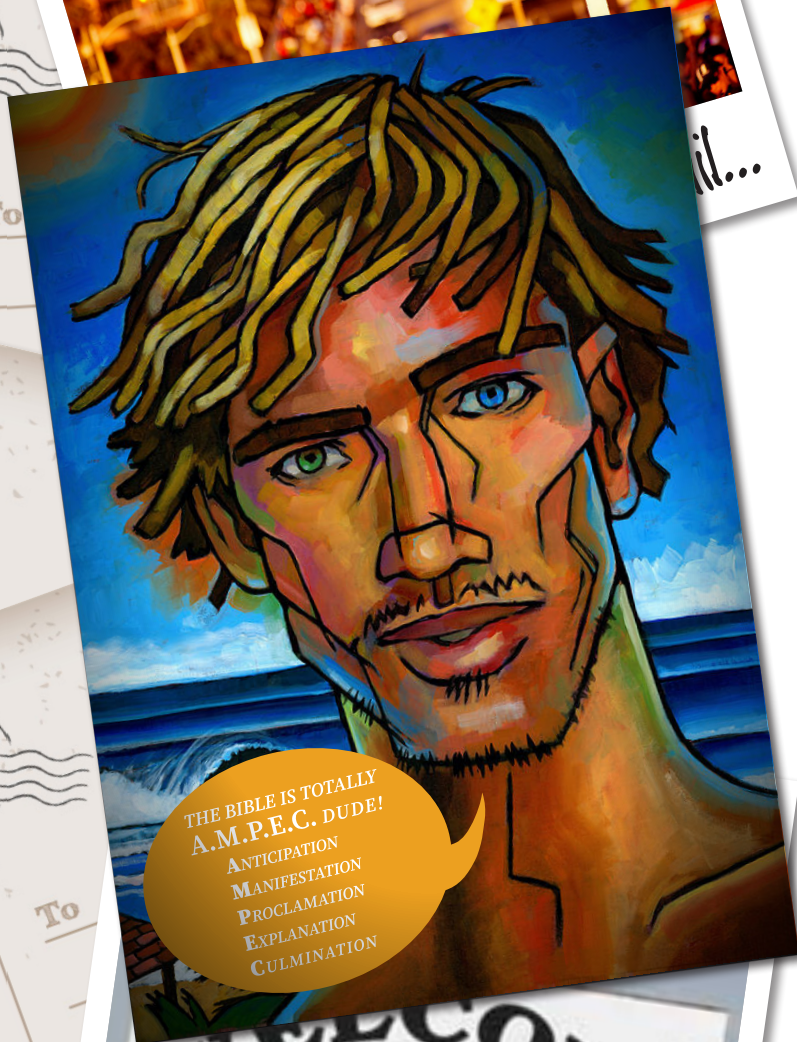
Mike S.

This has helped
me to see something
wonderful in each
book.

Marilyn C.

What did the Lord show
me? Yet again HE
affirmed that the more
time spent in the Word of
God, the closer we come
to understanding who
He is and who we are
standing before Him.

Pam D.



THE BIBLE IS TOTALLY
A.M.P.E.C. DUDE!
ANTICIPATION
MANIFESTATION
PROCLAMATION
EXPLANATION
CULMINATION



Half way there...



in Asia?!

SUMMER SUPPERS

FOSTERING CONNECTION AROUND THE TABLE



"It was one of the best Carmel experiences I've ever had!"



Women's Ministry asked the question: What would it look like if small clusters of Carmel women – of all ages and stages – got together around the supper table and shared their stories this summer? The answer is SO many good things!

"Our time was AMAZING! Each woman was so open, wanting to share, craving fellowship and encouraging each other!"

"It was a great opportunity for fellowship and connecting with other women on a deeper, personal level. It made me want to try harder to connect more at Carmel."

"I met women I would not have come in contact with otherwise. It was so enjoyable to be around a table that was multi-generational, and in so many different places with their walk with Christ. Having the ability to pray for them and hear a little of their stories was such a blessing."



Pray about who the Lord is prompting you to gather with around the table.

MINISTRY PARTNER APPRECIATION

SAYING THANK YOU WITHOUT WORDS

Benefiting Ministries Include:

- **Beds for Kids:**
Provides beds and essential furniture to children and their families in need
- **Carrington Place Nursing Home:**
Residential rehabilitation and living center
- **Changed Choices:**
Building new lives beyond prison walls
- **Charlotte Rescue Mission:**
Transforming lives by serving people impacted by addiction
- **Congregations for Kids:**
Uniting churches for the mentorship, foster care and adoption needs of Mecklenburg County
- **Joni & Friends:**
Reaching individuals and families affected by disabilities
- **Lansdowne Elementary:**
Assisting local school community through volunteering, tutoring and mentorship
- **Human Coalition/PRC:**
Providing compassionate support and care to women and families whose lives have been affected by unplanned pregnancy
- **Project 658:**
Providing services for at-risk families in Charlotte
- **Young Life Capernaum:**
Giving young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities the chance to experience fun and adventure
- **Jackson Park Ministry:**
Transforming lives by giving people "a hand up, not a hand out"
- **Merry Oaks Elementary (Project 658):**
Assisting local school community through equipment and resources

It is always a blessing to give unexpected gifts to others - and Carmel was able to do that this summer!

Throughout the summer, Carmel's Outreach team hosted "appreciation" events for the staff at each of our local ministry partners, from ice cream socials to breakfasts. Our intent was to celebrate the Kingdom impact of each staff person and remind them how valued and appreciated they are for their hard work on the frontline and their dedication.

In addition, Carmel was able to fulfill needed items on each partner's "Wish List" totalling more than \$62,000. These gifts were beyond our quarterly financial support and included items ranging from industrial vacuums to faith-based foster care training for DSS workers.



NEXT-GEN REFLECTIONS

SUMMER 2018

Summer is a special time when hundreds of volunteers provide Carmel's next generation with dynamic age-appropriate experiences that allow kids to dig deeper into God's Word, experience community and own their faith. Here are a few summer reflections:



CAMP CARMEL

Camp Carmel provides students a week-long mountain escape to be Jesus-focused through teaching, discipleship and a good dose of fun. This year's camp theme used the stories of the bleeding woman, Zacchaeus and others, to teach that difficult moments can make us think God has forgotten us, when in reality He is present in our moments of battle.

"Our students both had a great experience at Camp Carmel and came home excited about Jesus! Our son ordered a new Bible and a journal so he could write down his daily thoughts and prayers. The Holy Spirit is definitely working in his heart. I am so thankful for Carmel's student ministry for consistently teaching and training our children." - Grateful Parent

We praise God for the 389 adult and student volunteers who lent their time and talents to provide these meaningful summer experiences for 1036 of the next generation.



Pray about how you can actively influence the next generation to follow Jesus with their whole hearts.



AMAZING JOURNEY BACK TO BIBLE TIMES

Amazing Journey Back to Bible Times provides preschoolers with 4 days of hands-on learning about Jesus.

"Back to Bible Times was a great experience for my child because he was able to touch, taste, see, feel and hear what it would have been like to walk with Jesus in Bible times. These tangible experiences brought the miracles of Jesus home in a whole new way! Holt's favorite part was seeing Jesus as a superhero! Bringing Jesus to life in a way that kids in 2018 can really relate to was very exciting for him. It's an incredible opportunity for our kids to be surrounded by love, to have fun and to experience Jesus in a way they aren't able to on Wednesday nights or Sunday mornings. It's a can't miss on our calendar every year!" - Sarah Robinson, Parent



CARMELKIDZ CAMP

CarmelKidz Camp is a week of kid-friendly discipleship and learning designed to help kids deepen their understanding and relationship with God, discover God's truth and develop friendship through a shared experience with their peers.

"It's in the little moments where Jesus shows you the fulfillment and beauty of serving. It's in kids looking at the details of their fingerprints and realizing they're fearfully and wonderfully made. It's in watching pure, unfiltered joy on a boy's face drumming his heart out. It's in looking around a room full of leaders you've grown up serving with and sweet kiddos you've watched grow up. It's seeing a children's minister work tirelessly day after day with her whole, passionate heart - handling every situation with grace and pointing us all to our Creator. It's in the shaving cream and mud, swing rides and slip 'n slides. That's Jesus. Genesis Camp 2018, you've left me with two tired legs but the most joyous heart." - Sarah Teague, Volunteer



STUDENT MISSIONS

SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

On the other side of the equator within our very own time zone Carmel missionaries Craig and Daisy Tippie are ministering in Huacho, Peru. Despite Huacho being known as the witchcraft capital of Peru, there is a great light shining into the darkness and a vision to reach, teach and disciple in the name of Jesus.

Carmel Students partnered this past summer with the Tippies to provide a mission-critical need - hosting a youth conference. With financial support through Carmel's Lois Bumpus Scholarship, 15-year-old Brooke Bulter, was among the 32 students who spent 8 days at Iglesia Cristiana assisting with a youth conference and participating in outreach efforts.

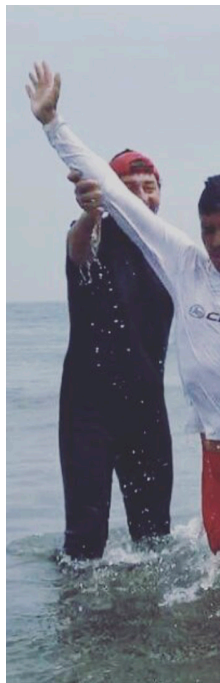
If you don't know me, I am a listener and not really a talker, which means I don't like to speak in front of crowds or strangers. In Huacho, it was necessary to do both.

The main purpose of our trip was working with the church Iglesia Cristiana Huacho, leading a youth purity conference. The conference lasted for the whole week and took place every night. Our student team was divided into 8 groups, and each team was given a lesson on purity to teach. My group was given the task of teaching the distortions from God's design, including adultery, unwanted sexual contact, modesty, cohabitation, depression, and suicide.

This was a very heavy topic to teach about, but it helped me grow as a person and a Christian. I learned how to be bold and confident, which did not come from me, but solely from the Holy Spirit. This past spring, I did a Bible study on Acts, and I admired the boldness Paul and other disciples had in sharing the gospel.

"One thing that really amazed me about the church was their worship."

They were always singing praise songs or playing guitar; it was constant. When we would have scheduled worship, they would get up on stage and just give it all to God, not worrying about making it a concert. It was so AWESOME to sing and learn new songs in Spanish, and I didn't have to worry about being in key, but just giving it all to God.





DID YOU KNOW? 37 students received a Lois Bumpus scholarship this past year. Because of Lois' deep love for Christian missions and her passion to see young men and women serving as missionaries, the Lois Bumpus Missions Endowment and Scholarship Fund were created to honor her lifetime commitment to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The purpose of these funds is to underwrite missionary work across the globe for 16 to 26 year old members of Carmel. It is the desire of the Bumpus family that these dollars be used to help young men and women spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ across the globe through short-term mission trips.



Pray that God would inspire our students to share the Good News of Christ with the world.

CREATING A LEGACY

CARMEL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL MINISTRY CELEBRATES 25 YEARS



"On February 9, 1993, it was recommended that Carmel expand our school program to include Kindergarten. The recommendation was unanimously agreed upon, God Himself orchestrated the whole event and the ministry of Carmel Christian School was born," said Debbie Vanhoy, founding head of school.

Carmel Christian School (CCS) opened in the Fall of 1993 with 44 students in 2 Kindergarten classes and 5 faculty/staff members at our original Carmel Road location. The school's stated purpose was to "work together in a ministry effort to see that the influences of home, school and church compliment one another." For the last twenty-five years, CCS has stayed true to this purpose while discipling students to impact the world for Christ.

*"A teacher's dream and a church's vision
was now a reality."*

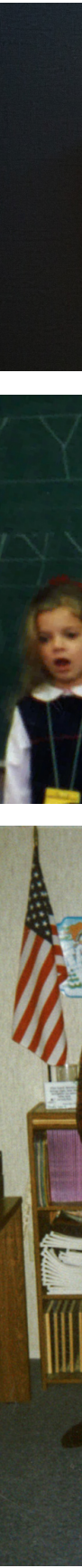
In 1997, Carmel relocated to Matthews and held their first worship service on June 8. That August, the school ministry opened its doors having grown to a K-4 school. The foundation of academics and discipleship were expanded to include athletic and fine arts as the ministry grew. The first athletic teams (Middle School Golf and Cross Country) were added in 2000. What we now call the Auxillary Gym was completed in 2001, increasing the sports offerings to include basketball and volleyball. The first school play, "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe," was performed by the Middle School CCS Players in 2001.

Since 1993, the Lord has expanded the ministry of Carmel Christian School as relationships have been built with families in the local and church communities. The school has continued to grow to over 900 students in Grades K-12, including the expansion of high school enrollment from 7 to 338 students, since its addition in 2010.

CCS cultivates a community of academic excellence, artistic expression and athletic distinction marked by intentional discipleship. CCS students, faculty and staff are creating a legacy of prayer and relationships built upon a biblical foundation for future generations. We can't wait to see how He will work through CCS over the next 25 years as we remain committed to making disciples of those nearest, our neighbors and the nations.



*Pray for God to continue to use the
ministry of CCS to raise up generations
of Christ followers to impact the world.*



B E L I G H T



Doors Open

Carmel Christian School opened its doors with 2 Kindergarten classes of 44 children.

1993



New Campus

Carmel Christian School opened its doors on the new Carmel Matthews campus. Enrollment (K-4): 197

1997

Missions

Students participated in Operation Christmas Child for the first time and voted on a new mascot: Cougars. Enrollment (K-7): 281

2000



High School

In the fall of 2010, seven pioneer students launched the CCS High School as the Class of 2014. Enrollment: 489 (K-9)

2010



SDC Building

New classrooms, gymnasium and auditorium open in the new Student Discipleship Center. Enrollment (K-12): 940

2017



2015 OAKHURST REPLANT THRIVING

The Biblical Reporter recently spotlighted Oakhurst Baptist - a church revitalization project of which Carmel has been privileged to be a part. We're so grateful to see what God has done here!



Four years ago, Oakhurst Baptist Church was prepared to close its doors. Located just a few miles southeast of Charlotte's city center, the once-thriving congregation had weathered a changing demographic and economic climate but retained only a few dozen members. However, today it is showing signs of new growth, the fruits of an effort rooted in local church partnerships and denominational cooperation.

Oakhurst Pastor, David Russell, shares Carmel's passion for church revitalization and was inspired to lead the "replant" because of the long-term revitalization he witnessed at Capitol Hill Baptist in the 1990s.

According to the Metrolina Baptist Association, a significant number of area churches are in "serious decline," meaning worship attendance has decreased more than 50 percent in the last 10 years.

"It gave me a picture of the power behind helping revive an old, historic gospel witness," David said.

*"We don't want to see churches become
coffee shops and condos in neighborhoods that
are now booming with population growth."*

Along with mentorship, Carmel provided financial support and "sweat equity" for the replant, with teams assisting the needed building repairs and upgrades to Oakhurst's facility. Members of Carmel even left to join the replant team.





"It was the summer of 1969 when I started attending Oakhurst Baptist Church. I love what I see happening here. This is an answer to prayer!"

- Billy Frank Alexander



"The revitalization of Oakhurst has been a joy to be a part of. The gospel is bearing fruit in that part of Charlotte because of the willingness of brothers & sisters in Christ to partner together. We are hopeful to see this replicated again and again in the Queen City."

- Alex Kennedy

rē-'plant | to restart a church while keeping significant aspects of the ministry, such as the name or location.

20 SECONDS OF BOLDNESS

ASKING ABOUT DREAMS

It was through an invitation from his Discipleship Community that Don ended up serving breakfast to men in the Rebound program at Charlotte Rescue Mission monthly. CRM is a Carmel ministry partner that helps transform lives by serving people impacted by addiction.

One morning after Pastor Alex finished the ABLE series, Don was motivated to step out from behind the serving line and join a table of men. The men varied in age and tenure at CRM but each extended a welcome. After short introductions, Don asked the men "tell me a little bit about your dreams when you complete the program at CRM."

Jason was sitting at this table. He was outgoing and as he spoke of his faith walk and experiences in the business world, Don was struck by how much their stories paralleled. He was also struck by Jason's genuine desire for a new beginning.

Don's question opened the door for continued conversations with Jason on those breakfast mornings. And they stayed connected even after Jason graduated from the Rebound program. The two gathered together to study the Word. And at Jason's recent baptism at New Charlotte Church, Don was present to celebrate!

**"God wants to use
all of us as His hands
and feet to bring the
Good News of hope.
No one is beyond
His reach."**

If you've never tried serving at Rebound or are nervous about stepping outside your comfort zone, Don says this:

"Just go! Pray for God's direction. Find a way to connect with the people you are serving. Tell them a little bit about yourself, your journey of faith, and why you came. Be a friend. Ask them about their dreams. God will do the rest!"



JASON'S BAPTISM





CHARLOTTE RESCUE MISSION

REBOUND & DOVE'S NEST

Changing Lives by God's Grace

March 29, 2018

I'm Not the Hero of My Story

Jason Kipp, Rebound Resident - Charlotte Rescue Mission

(Reprinted with Permission)

Growing up in Proctorville, OH, Jason was successful – at thirteen he started his own mowing enterprise, he played four sports, and was popular at school. He was a devoted Christian and was baptized in 4th grade. However, his spiritual walk eventually grew stale. He tried his first beer at thirteen and marijuana at fourteen, and both habits became a way of life in high school.

In 1996 Jason moved to Charlotte, which was initially a wonderful place professionally, but as the economy struggled, Jason was laid off multiple times, and he began to rely on the numbing effects of drugs and alcohol. After being arrested for a DWI in June of 2017 and consequently resigning from his job, Jason soon found himself drinking a case of beer or more a day and lacking money and control of his life.

In February, within an hour of being evicted, Jason took a knife to his wrist. He was determined to end his pain and shame, but God was not going to give up on him. As his life was leaving his body, an acquaintance "just happened" to come see how he was doing.

Jason recovered and arrived at Rebound on February 20, where God began working. On February 23, he attended his first AA meeting, where thirty seconds into telling his story he revealed himself as a broken man whom God was starting to heal.

Today, Jason is a month away from graduation, and the three greatest observations he shared back in March when he was just thirty days into the program are the same today:

- **I am not in control.** Jason is continuing to learn and embrace that God is in control of his life, not him.
- **I can complete this program, if I put in the work.** Jason, through God's grace, sees CRM's program as tough but very doable if a person wants it enough.
- **There are so many people that want to help and have a vested interest in my success.** Jason is greatly encouraged by the countless volunteers who serve, the staff who invest their careers, and CRM's ministry partners who invest their hearts and resources into helping him transform his life.

When asked to summarize everything he's learned these past three months, Jason responded, "I'm not the hero of my story." Jason continues to be a Type A kind of guy, but he's learning to entrust himself and his recovery to God. As he lets go of his need to control his own life, he gains freedom from addiction and a greater chance of life-long recovery.

TRANSFORMATION THROUGH HEALING & THE WORD



Mary and John were high school sweethearts and have been married for 18 years. Mary discovered the depth of John's pornography addiction the night of their honeymoon - an addiction that had been growing since his first exposure at age 8.

After struggling through 7 years of marriage, John began to participate in a recovery group very similar to our **More Than Conquerors** - a curriculum and small group for men seeking to overcome pornography addiction. John had struggled and attempted to have victory over this addiction for decades and sought

help from several sources; brothers in Christ, pastors, books, articles, and technology all with very little success. John's L.I.F.E. recovery group was life-changing and equipped John to recognize his addiction, identify and diffuse destructive patterns. **More Than Conquerors** is a similar safe place to build real relationships with people that understand the all-too-real struggle and have solid life changing advice.

In 2017 John and Mary learned about the **More Than Conquerors** and **Women Living Well** classes that were being offered at Carmel. While John had made great progress dealing with his addiction over the years Mary was still privately hurting on the inside. Women Living Well was just the tool she needed to begin her healing process. Women Living Well is a NEW confidential small group using curriculum for women who love men who battle pornography and sexual addiction. John encouraged Mary to participate.

Here Mary reflects on her experience:

"God had great surprises for me! First, I found that I am not alone! All of us were in different stages of the struggle, but able to relate to and encourage one another. Second, I was safe! My story, my very real feelings, and my very real battles we're safe. And finally, it was apparent that not all was lost, God can still be brought glory through our lives! Though God had been faithful to teach me much in my isolation, I still had much to learn about myself, my feelings, and my styles of communication. I have come away equipped and empowered to move forward as an individual, a wife, and a mother. This experience has been an important tool of God's redemption and favor in my life!"

"I encourage anyone who wants to see God work and to experience His love and grace at a very rich and deep level to take a leap of faith and join this next session! God is a Redeemer and Healer!"

If you or your spouse is struggling with pornography addiction, don't face the battle alone. Contact **More Than Conquerors** (conquerors@carmelbaptist.org) or **Women Living Well** (womenlivingwell@carmelbaptist.org) to learn more. **All correspondence is confidential.**



SACRED SPACES

CARMEL PRAYER ROOM: A QUIET PLACE TO ABIDE

There is something about coming to a designated place of prayer that invites people to draw apart from the world in order to meet with God. The Carmel Prayer Room is a place where individuals, families, small groups and prayer teams can gather to seek His face and where God is welcome to breathe into the lives of those who desire His presence. It is a space where we can learn how to intercede for more than personal needs and issues and be stretched towards God's kingdom purposes through prayer.

Open: Monday - Friday • 8:30am - 8:00pm

Daughters of the King Prayer Gatherings

All are welcome!

1st & 3rd Tuesday 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Every Thursday 11:45am - 12:45pm

Intercessory Prayer

1st Sunday of the month the Elders and their wives are ready to pray with and for you between worship services.

"My house
will be called
a house of prayer
for all nations"

(Isaiah 56:7b)



Pray about how God might use your personal struggles and redemption to strengthen someone else.

JUMP IN.

*The mission of Carmel is to Make Disciples of those Nearest,
our Neighbors and the Nations by living ABLE lives - lives that ABIDE in Christ
to BUILD relationships and LIVE the Gospel with EVERYTHING.*

Sunday Mornings:

Worship 8:00 / 9:30 / 11:00am • Discipleship Communities 9:30 / 11:00am

Wednesday Midweek:

Equipping & Encouragement for All Ages • Wednesdays 4:45 - 6:15pm (supper)
6:15 - 7:30pm (programs)

Key Fall Dates: Carmel Serve - October 24-28
Missional Halloween - October 31
Sean Lee Appreciation Event - December 5



Stay connected to all that is happening at Carmel by subscribing to our weekly eNews.
To subscribe, email questions@carmelbaptist.org or text CARMELNEWS to 22828.