

“The Chief Design of My Life”

John Owen is widely regarded as one of the premier theologians of church history. His ministry was vast and varied: preacher, statesman, political advisor, educator, advocate, author, polemicist, defender of faith, and bible commentator. But perhaps his greatness is most clearly seen in his pastoral writings on sin and temptation. At least that was the opinion of Andrew Thompson, one of Owen’s early biographers, who states, “We have not seen [Owen] in all his greatness until, in such practical works as his treatise on the ‘Mortification of Sin in Believers,’ he brings the truth into contact, not so much with the errors of the heretic, as with the corruption and deceitfulness of the human heart.”

Christians have long valued Owen’s writings on sin and temptation for their penetrating insights into the depths of the heart and their soaring analysis of the glory of Christ on the cross. The goal of his life was to expose sin and extol the Savior. He states, “I hope I may own in sincerity that my heart’s desire unto God, and the chief design of my life...are that mortification and universal holiness may be promoted in my own heart and in the hearts and ways of others, to the glory of God; that so the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ may be adorned in all things.”

For Owen, overcoming sin and temptation was more than a tagline; it was a daily battle that he fought until the day he died. At his funeral in 1683, his assistant David Clarkson stated, “I need not tell you of this who knew him that it was his great design to promote holiness in the life and exercise of it among you.” In other words, Owen preached what he first practiced.

Owen wrote three main works on this subject: *Of the Mortification of Sin in Believers* (1656), *Of Temptation: The Nature and Power of It* (1658), and *The Nature, Power, Deceit, and Prevalency of Indwelling Sin* (1675). These three volumes have recently been edited into one book by Kelly Kopic and Justin Taylor under the title *Overcoming Sin and Temptation* (Crossway, 2006). The editors are to be applauded for accomplishing the seemingly impossible task of retaining the original style, shape, and substance of Owen’s works while recasting the text in a user-friendly and easier-to-read format.

Overcoming Sin and Temptation is must reading for anyone who struggles with sin, and that’s all of us. As Owen states, “The choicest believers, who are assuredly freed from the condemning power of sin, ought yet to make it their business all their days to mortify the indwelling power of sin.” How is triumph found? “Set faith at work on Christ for the killing of your sin. His blood is the great sovereign remedy for sin-sick souls. Live in this, and you will die a conqueror; yea, you will, through the good providence of God, live to see your lust dead at your feet.” The battle is intense: “Be killing sin or it will be killing you.” But the pathway to victory is sure: “There is no death of sin without the death of Christ.” Time and again in these three little works, Owen outlines a battle plan for attacking sin by affixing our attention on Christ.

Take up and read,
Pastor John



COMING EVENTS

APRIL 1-3
MISSION CONFERENCE
FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY

THURSDAY, APRIL 7
BABY SHOWER

APRIL 15
MOPS & POPS

APRIL 21
7:00 P.M.
MAUNDY THURSDAY
SERVICE

APRIL 22
7:00 P.M.
COMBINED GOOD
FRIDAY SERVICE
Pastor Kevin Labby
Murrysville Community
Church

APRIL 4
10:45 A.M.
EASTER SUNDAY
REV. JOHN TWEEDDALE
8:30 A.M. BREAKFAST
9:30 A.M. SUNDAY
SCHOOL
11:45 A.M. WORSHIP
6:30 P.M. EVENING WORSHIP



Missions Focus

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION INTERNATIONAL

Most of the foreign missionaries sent out from FRPC Faith Promise funds are sent through the PCA agency Mission to the World. But we have one sent through Presbyterian Mission International – Natee Tanchanpongs. That is because he is a Thai national sent back to Thailand to serve. PMI was founded to assist Christian **nationals** graduating from Covenant Seminary in returning to their **home countries** to begin their evangelistic, church-planting, leadership training and holistic ministries. Since many of the board members are Covenant faculty they have several years to assess the candidates in class, in ministry settings and in the seminary community. These nationals are well trained and Reformed Christians able to minister as cultural insiders (no need for cross-cultural training) and in ways that usually require less financial support than western missionaries. Because of their cultural awareness and ready network of in-country contacts, they can operate their ministries, buy land and build facilities for less. Natee was able to go right into teaching at the Bible College. Every dime given for a particular missionary will go to that missionary’s support. This is possible because PMI is operated by volunteers, mostly Covenant Seminary personnel. A few local PCA churches give to support the administrative costs of PMI. Natee was recruited to join the MTW church-planting team led by Dave Veldhorst in Bangkok, Thailand.



Baptism

Knox Richard James Tweeddale was baptized Sunday, March 20, 2011. Knox is the son of John and Angela Tweeddale.



April Birthdays

3	Debbie Baker	21	Cameron McGuire
		23	Pete Taylor
5	Taylor Cole Serena Renda	24	Walt Comin Claire Hopple Fred Stewart
6	Dan Andrzejewski Alicia Henderson Michelle McClain Ryan McGuire	26	Alex Cervi Anne Jenkins
		27	Dave Lawyer Bill Purdy
8	Bill Dietz Jeff Mattson	29	Bill Airgood Jim Brown Stephen DiNatale
9	Dale McLane		
11	Heather Mattson	30	Danielle Campbell Autumn Matta
13	Emily Faber		
17	Jared Campbell		
19	Mikaila Carter Anna Lintelman		



Christian Sympathy



We are sad to report the passing of Mr. Ken Forman, age 98, member of FRPC, on March 19. Services were held on Monday March 15.

Baby Shower April 7



There will be a baby shower for Amy Frost on Thursday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The invitation is extended to all of the women of First Reformed. Amy is having a boy and is registered at Babies R Us.

Financial Summary
January 1 - February 28, 2011

Operating Account:	
Receipts	\$ 63,300
Disbursements	\$ 57,130
<i>Account Balances -</i>	
Operating Checking	\$ 13,348
Operating Saving	\$ 222,945
 Benevolence Account:	
Income	\$ 20,063
Disbursements	\$ 17,062





April



2011

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

<p>Each Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship 5:30 p.m. Promises 6:30 p.m. Evening Worship</p>					<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> <p>Missions Conference Friday - begins 6:15 p.m. Saturday - begins 8:30 a.m.</p> </div>
<p>3</p> <p>A.M. Rev. Elias Mederios</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>No Promises</i></p> <p>PM Rev. John Tweeddale</p>	<p>4</p> <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;">  <p>Baby Bottle Campaign - April 1-17</p> </div>		<p>4:00 p.m. Truth Troop 7:00 p.m. Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Choir</p>	 <p>7:00 p.m. Baby Shower Amy Frost Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>7:00 p.m. College & Career Bible Study 8:00 p.m. Youth Group Lock-in</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <p>A.M. Lord's Supper Rev. John Tweeddale</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Seneca Sunday 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>PM Rev. John Tweeddale</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:00 p.m. WIC Council</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Plum Covenant Group</p>	<p>13</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Truth Troop 7:00 p.m. Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:30 a.m. MOPS</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6-9 p.m. MOPS and POPS 7:00 p.m. College & Career Bible Study</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <p>A.M. Rev. John Tweeddale Palm Sunday</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>P.M. Rev. John Tweeddale</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>1:00 p.m. "Lunch Bunch" D'Imperios</p>	<p>20</p> <p>No Truth Troop No Youth Group</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Lord's Supper</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Combined Good Friday Service Pastor Kevin Labby</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Missions Cmte. Meeting Presbytery meeting at East Liverpool</p>
<p>24</p> <p>E aster Sunday A.M. Rev. John Tweeddale Breakfast Sunday School & Worship</p> <p>P.M. Rev. John Tweeddale</p>	<p>25</p> <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;">  </div>	<p>26</p> <p>7:30 p.m. WIC Prayer</p>	<p>27</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Truth Troop -Parent Appreciation 7:00 p.m. Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:00 p.m. College & Career Bible Study</p>	<p>30</p> <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> <p>Presbytery Mtg. Washington PCA Promises rehearsal 10 am-12 pm Pizza Lunch</p> </div> <p style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">Promises Musical <i>Elijah</i> Sunday, May 1, 6 pm</p>



**WOMEN'S CHOICE NETWORK
BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN**

The baby bottle campaign will once again be sponsored by the WIC Salt and Light Committee to enable us to donate our "spare change" to fill a baby bottle.

All of the donations will go to Women's Choice Network (formerly Crossroads Pregnancy Center) and will be used for all of the wonderful work that they do .

Bottles will be available April 5 at the church and will be collected April 26

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*Thursday, April 21
7:00 p.m.*

Maundy Thursday Communion Service

*Friday, April 22
7:00 p.m.*

Good Friday PCA Combined Service
Pastor Kevin Labby - MCC

Sunday, April 24 - Easter Sunday

8:30 A.M. Congregational Breakfast
9:30 A.M. Sunday School Classes
10:45 A.M. Lord's Day Worship
Rev. John Tweeddale

6:30 p.m. Evening Worship
Rev. Tweeddale



Walk for Life

May 1st - Walk for Life sponsored by the Women's Choice Network. It will take place at PNC Park. To register and start finding sponsors go to www.mypregnancycenter.com.

There is also a need for volunteers with a medical background. Training will be in April.

Women's Choice Network

Baby Bottle Campaign April 1-17



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Bottles will be available April 1 at the church and will be collected April 17