

The LIFE Group Game Plan

The Objective:

Our objective is to entwine these four goals into the everyday fabric of our lives:

- A deeper knowledge of one another.
- A deeper ability to pray for one another.
- A deeper ability to minister to one another.
- A deeper ability to enjoy one another.



We then want to take these goals and incorporate them in our dealings with the community around us.

We do so by incorporating these purposes into practice:

- Practicing Authentic Biblical Fellowship in
- Ministry, Word and Prayer + Holy Spirit + Relationships
- And Reproducing Disciples in Affections; Attitudes; Actions; and Aims

The Gatherings:

Our group meetings will encompass the following:

- Worship - Prayer, Songs & Psalms
- Word - Scriptural truth, where truth meets life
- Witness - Life lived in the light of truth
- Works - Truth and life in action

How do we achieve this? By focusing our study on the sermon messages with the goal of exploring how to apply God's Word in our lives. It is a proven fact that we forget most of what we hear starting minutes after the event is over so it is crucial to interact with the message again for it to impact our lives.

This is a great undertaking that you are embarking on. Our LIFE Groups have the potential to radically change the face of SAF. You are on the cutting edge of ministry and I encourage you to explore how you will participate in this crucial ministry.

Sign-ups will begin in the lobby on Sunday, September 2nd. If you have a desire to lead or host a group please contact Pastor Don at dmiller@stowalliance.org or 330-688-7433.

John Kitchen, Senior Pastor

A Revival of Joy

Revival means “to live again” or “to give life again.” Apply that to joy—“to live *in joy* again” or “to give *joy* to life again.”

Sounds pretty good, huh?

If you agree, consider this tidbit from Nehemiah . . .

“... the joy of the LORD is your strength.... And all the people went ... to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.”

(Nehemiah 8:10b, 12)

See the double reference to joy and rejoicing?

The “joy of the LORD” could mean either: a) the joy the Lord possesses (it is the Lord’s own joy) or b) the joy the Lord gives (the joy the Lord distributes). I suggest Nehemiah has the latter in mind. So how does the Lord intend to give or distribute this joy that only He can give?

Look at this in context. We have set before us in the middle of Nehemiah the pattern for revival among God’s people:

God’s Word proclaimed to and understood by the people. (Neh. 8)

Confession and repentance of the sin exposed by God’s Word. (Neh. 9)

A new commitment to obedience. (Neh. 10)

Chapter 8, then, concludes by reminding us that all of this flows from joy—freshly outpoured joy! Such joy arises from experiencing God’s voice from His written Word with clarity and understanding.

Two principles emerge ...

Strength is in direct proportion to joy.

Joy is in direct proportion to hearing God’s voice with understanding.

So what would be the pathway to joy? The pathway to a revival of joy might look like this:

God’s Word → *heard with understanding* → *produces joy* → *providing strength to change and live differently*

If I am weary and powerless ... I need joy.

If I need joy ... I need to hear God with understanding.

When you need joy, the world says to indulge yourself. God says, “Listen to me.” When joy recedes the world says, “Be yourself.” God says, “Draw near to me.” The world diagnoses joylessness and prescribes listening to your desires. God spots your joylessness and moves toward you, inviting you to listen to Him.

So you want more joy? What does God’s Word suggest you do to revive joy in your life? How will you take that step toward joy?

Remember Nhu Kenya Team

From August 1-14, 2018, a team of 6 from SAF (Bill Alvarez, Tina Lantz, Pastor Don Miller, Tera Trowbridge, Kim Williams, and Sue Williams) along with people from 3 other C&MA churches will travel to Kenya, Africa to visit our two girls homes and put on a New Life Camp for the Remember Nhu kids who are in western Kenya.

Prayer is the fuel that will allow us to be successful as we follow God's leading in ministry to these precious children. Without prayer, nothing will happen.


Please pray with us ...


- for God's perfect timing for all details of the trip.
- that the members of teams (Stow Alliance's team and the larger team) will bond quickly to form a unified whole enabling us to care deeply for the children.
- that the children's hearts will be ready to receive the message we are bringing to them at the New Life Camp.
- for the presence of the Holy Spirit to invade the New Life Camp and draw many children to the Lord.
- for protection and health in our travels, and for the families we leave in the US as we travel.
- that we would have good attitudes and flexibility as we experience life and do ministry in a different culture.
- as the Holy Spirit directs you!

For Adults

New Members Class - Join us for 3 information packed classes about our local church, our denomination, and what it means to become a member at SAF. Classes begin Sunday, August 12th at 10:30am in room 217 or Wednesday, August 15th at 7:00pm in room 217.

Prime Timers - All senior adults are invited to join us on Thursday, August 16th at 6:00pm for a catered dinner in the Seasons Room, and a time of fellowship and faith-building with Judy Brown. Dinner cost is \$6 per person. Please contact Donna Malm at 330-688-9427 by Sunday, August 12th if you will be attending.

 **Worship Choir Kick Off Night** - Do you like to sing? Interested in seeing if you would like to be a part of the worship choir? Everyone 18 years or older is invited to the Worship Choir Kick Off Night on Friday, August 31st from 6:30-9:00pm in the Seasons Room. Come and join us for dinner and a look at the music for the fall and Christmas musical. Pizza and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dish to share! Please RSVP to Julie at jubalkitch@gmail.com if you are planning to attend.

 **Sunday Morning Coffee Ministry** - We are currently looking for a coordinator for the Sunday morning coffee ministry as well volunteers who would be willing to assist. This ministry would require availability before 1st service and in between services and involves set up, clean up, and serving coffee and pastries. If you would be interested in coordinating, volunteering, or would like more information, please sign up in the lobby or contact Pastor Phil at: pchapman@stowalliance.org or 330-688-7433.


Stewardship Update Through July 22, 2018:

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
TITHES & OFFERINGS		
Actual	\$56,653	\$381,943
Budget	<u>54,020</u>	<u>391,645</u>
Amount Over/(Under) Budget	2,633	(9,702)
GREAT COMMISSION FUND		
Actual	\$13,471	\$96,494
Promises	<u>5,248</u>	<u>38,048</u>
Amount Over/(Under) Promises	8,223	58,446

PRAISE Plan

Thank you for supporting the Praise Plan! Your continued gifts will help us with future projects.

For Adults Cont.

 **Russia Team 2018** - We as a church have adopted the International Workers serving in Russia and Ukraine and seek to encourage and support them through sending teams each year to the Pastoral Care Retreat led by Pastor John and Julie. Joining the Kitchens this year and focusing on ministry to the youth of our International Workers are Jordan Foraker, Sarah Parker and Michael Ray. The team will travel beginning October 12th. Please begin praying for them and those to whom they will minister. If you would like to help support them financially in this ministry, gifts may be given to SAF online or via check or cash and designated “**Russia Team 2018.**”

Women’s Ministry

NAOMI Women - All women are welcome to join us for a time of fellowship and friends at Handel’s Ice Cream (3048 Graham Rd.) on Thursday, August 9th at 7:00pm.

Wednesday Ladies Bible Study - The Wednesday evening women’s Bible study will begin again on August 29th in room 211. We will be working through the study *Twelve Women of the Bible*, a look at the spiritual lessons learned from twelve biblical women and their implications in life today. Please contact Sue Armentrout at 330.474.1311 or armentrouts84@yahoo.com with any questions you might have.

Youth Ministries



Jr. High Canoe Trip - All Jr. High students, including new 6th graders and 8th graders who moved up, are invited to join the fun at our overnigher on Friday, August 10th at 7:00pm and the canoe trip to Mohican Adventures Park in Loudonville, OH on Saturday, August 11th. The cost is \$30 per person and includes the canoe trip, food, go-karts, and putt-putt and more! Please sign up in the Jr. High room if you are planning to attend.


No youth group - August 15!!

Back to School Bash - Jr. High and Sr. High, mark your calendar for Saturday, August 18th from 5:00-9:00pm. We will be combining youth groups with Crossroads Community Church in Ravenna (9018 State Route 44 Ravenna, OH 44266) for an evening of inflatables, water fun, competitions for prizes and more. Cost is \$10 which includes food and drinks. Bring your own water gun for the ultimate water gun fight! Transportation to and from Crossroads Church **WILL NOT** be provided, please make arrangements ahead of time. There will be a sign up in the senior high room along with a release form for Crossroads Church. Deadline to sign up is Sunday, August 12th.

LIFE 2019 Youth Parent Meeting - Attention parents!! We will be having a meeting to discuss LIFE 2019 information on Sunday August 19th, 2018 starting at 12 noon in the Seasons Room. Lunch will be provided, please mark your calendars and plan on attending. LIFE 2019 is open to current (2018-2019 school year) 8th graders through seniors.

Fall Kickoff - Starting Wednesday, August 22nd we will resume our normal fall youth group schedule.

Stow Alliance Preschool

 **Acme Receipts** - The preschool will begin collecting Acme receipts again as a fundraiser. SAP will receive 5% cash back on all Acme brand purchases. You can turn your receipts into the designated box at the preschool or church office beginning **August 9th, 2018**. Thank you for your support of SAP!

SAP Registration - SAP registration is going on now for the 2018-2019 school year! We have openings in our 3 year old classes and afternoon 4/5 year old class. To register, pick up a registration packet on the lobby table, visit our website, or contact Jeanne Crowe at 330-688-7433.

Children's Ministry



Awana Volunteers Needed- It's that time of year again... time to start thinking about Awana! If you are interested in helping out with Awana this year we are in need of new volunteers to assist in a variety of ways. This is a great opportunity for you to be involved with the children at Stow Alliance Fellowship. Please contact Darlene Risjan at 330-688-7433 or drisjan@stowalliance.org if you are able and willing to help invest in the lives of our children!

Awana Kick Off - This year, we will kick off our Awana year on Wednesday, August 22nd from 7:00 - 8:00pm in room 230 with an all family get together. This will be an informal evening of getting to know everyone and making sure everyone is registered. The whole family is invited to come for the whole evening. You don't want to miss out!! We will then start with our normal Awana schedule on Wednesday, August 29th.

Awana Registration - Awana registration is open online! At Awana we learn to love God with our minds and serve Him with all we are! Come join us in the adventure of knowing and loving God this fall. Awana is for children 3 years old (and potty trained) up to 5th grade. Click on the link on the Children's Ministry page or Resource page on our website at: www.stowalliance.org to register.

Preschool Sunday School Class - We are currently looking for 2 full time teachers for the preschool class (3 -5 yr. olds) during 1st service beginning September 1st. If you are interested or need more information, please contact Darlene Risjan at 330-688-7433 or drisjan@stowalliance.org.



International Friendship Connection

This month approximately 500 new International students will be arriving on the Kent State Campus. The following are some of the ways IFC volunteers can help the new students adjust and settle in to their new campus:

Become a Weekly Prayer Supporter

Become a Friendship Partner

American Culture & Conversation classes

- Volunteers are needed to help students with their English and learn American culture

Prayer Walk

Saturday, August 4th from 10am-12pm

- Location: Faith Lutheran Church in Kent
- Anyone and everyone who is willing and able to pray for the KSU students and IFC students is welcome to attend!

Welcome Week

August 13th - 17th

- Volunteers needed at Welcome Tables each day and Wal-Mart Trips Thursday and Friday

Furniture Fair

Saturday, August 25th

- Location: TBD

Welcome Picnic

Saturday, September 15th from 4:00pm till dark

- Location: TBD
- Volunteers are needed to set up, clean up, meet, greet, and eat with the students and have friendly conversation with them.

Please let Rob & Marlene Osborn (robert5osborn@yahoo.com) know if you are able to help with any of the upcoming events or if you have any questions or concerns about the upcoming event.

Our SAF Family

August Birthdays...



May God Bless You on Your Birthday

Dave Junglen	8/1	Brandon Moore	8/12	Howard Gustafson	8/24
Darlene Thomason	8/2	Jeanne Zimmerman	8/15	Gary Tipton	8/25
Katie Hall	8/3	Sue Williams	8/16	Jim Harry	8/26
Shirley Row		Jim Webb	8/17	Cathy McInturff	
Abby Veppert		Amiya Williams	8/18	Lois Webb	
Heather McAmis	8/5	Sue Bond	8/19	Helen Dietz	8/27
Hannah Milette		Cindy Miller		Rachel Williams	
Imogene Bennett	8/6	Donna Utterback		Bob Sawders	8/28
Sam Cameron		Sam Risjan	8/21	Ruby Masl	8/30
Janice Allen	8/9	Sarah Williams		Kelly Whittington	
Andrew Trowbridge		Linda Williams	8/23	Bill Davis	8/31
John Feskanin, Jr.	8/10	Nancy Williams			

August Anniversaries...



Jim & Betty Russell	8/1	Paul & Julie Hetherington	8/12	John & Nancy Cervone	8/24
John & Lorrie Scheftic	8/2	Dan & Megan Trowbridge	8/18	James & Anna Falbo	8/29
Steve & Kim Williams	8/7	Bill & Janet Marshall	8/22	Doug & Jeanne Crowe	8/31
Jerry & Alison Dorton	8/9	Ross & Charlotte Gunther	8/23	Larry & Sharon Eleo	
Tom & Cindy Horsfall	8/11	Erv & Nancy Reed			

If you are not currently on our birthday and/or anniversary list and would like to be, please call the church office and let us know!

Wedding Congratulations To...

Logan & April (Trowbridge) Brisbin who were united in marriage on June 30, 2018. April's parents are Dan & Megan Trowbridge.

Andrew & Lauren (Wilson) Miller who were united in marriage on July 8, 2018. Lauren's parents are Pat & Rae Jean Wilson.