



NEOGA

# THE EVANGEL

MARCH 2016



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# He Fights For You by Max and Andrea Lucado

*Excerpt from introduction...*

"The weapons of our warfare are . . . mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God" (vv. 4–5, emphasis mine). The apostle defined a stronghold as an argument or high thing that "exalts itself against the knowledge of God." It is a conviction, outlook, or belief that attempts to interfere with truth.

Other translations describe a stronghold as

- "imagination" (KJV),
- "pretension" (NIV),
- "lofty opinion" (ESV),
- "warped philosophies" (MSG).

A stronghold is a false premise that denies God's promise. It "sets itself up against the knowledge of God" (v. 5 NIV). It seeks to eclipse our discovery of God. It attempts to magnify the problem and minimize God's ability to solve it.

Does a stronghold have a strong hold on you?

Do you see nothing but Jericho?

Do you feel nothing but despair?

Do you think thoughts of defeat?

Do you speak the language of impossibility?

God could never forgive me (the stronghold of guilt).

I could never forgive that person (the stronghold of resentment).

Bad things always happen to me (the stronghold of self-pity).

I have to be in charge (the stronghold of pride).

I don't deserve to be loved (the stronghold of rejection).

I'll never recover (the stronghold of defeat).

I must be good, or God will reject me (the stronghold of performance).

I'm only as good as I look (the stronghold of appearance).

My value equals my possessions (the stronghold of materialism).

Most Christians don't recognize strongholds.

They live in the shadow of these joy-sucking Jerichos.

But we don't have to be among them. Our weapons are from God and have "divine power to demolish strongholds" (v. 4 NIV).

Isn't that what we want? We long to see our strongholds demolished, turned into rubble once and for all, forever and ever, ka-boom! We long to see Jericho brought to the ground. How does this happen?

By keeping God in the center.

## CURRENT (3 WEEKS):

*Praise* - Ivy Mae Bear 2/16 7lbs 8oz, 21"

Art Ashbrook - back surgery

Kellee Beccue - surgery recovery

Joann Hood - knee replacement recovery

Mel Hood - hospice, stroke

Neil Luallen - stroke recovery

Carol Mefford - bone cancer

Eugene Phillips - heart bypass recovery

Don Scoles

Diana Smyser - rehab

Olive Stiebner - shoulder surgery recovery

Kimberly Stivers (Aleta's granddaughter) - abdominal surgery

## ONGOING CONCERNS:

4/14

CIY - Jr. High 4/1-2; High School 7/25-30

Conjoined twins, Charleston

Ann Conn

## FIGHTING CANCER:

Sam Bean

Ann Conn

Mel Hood

Dan Letizia

Carol Mefford

Denny Mefford, Jr.

Brad Odum

Wyatt Smith

Bob Thomas

Elizabeth Weidner

Larry Wheeler

Lis White

## IN THE MILITARY:

Jalen Blazich - Army

Jared Blazich - Air Force

Tyler Briggerman - Navy

Shane Gephardt

Josh Kiest

Wes Letizia - Air Force

Alicia & Steve Tordoff - Army Reserve

## IN CARE FACILITIES:

Ivan Cooper - Heartland

Carolyn Gast - Cumberland Co

Elsie Phillips - Heartland

## FCC Ladies Three Month (February, March, April) Calendar At a Glance

**“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship,  
to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” Acts 2:42 (NIV)**

Ladies... We have many opportunities for fellowship, worship, Bible study, and prayer these three months. Please put this calendar on your refrigerator, and use it to help you in your planning. Please note a description of some of the programs is on the next page. We encourage you to participate in as many events as your family schedule permits.

Sunday, February 28, 2016	Last Day to sign up for Ladies Day At Oil Belt - FCC Welcome Center Register for Priscilla Shirer Simulcast April 23, cost \$10 (includes lunch)
Friday, March 4, 2016	War Room movie at FCC - 6:30 pm
Sunday, March 6, 2016	First Session of War Room Study & Prayer - FCC Basement Fellowship Area 6:00 pm Sunday or 9:30 am Wednesday
Saturday, March 12, 2016	Leave FCC at 7:30 am for Ladies’ Day at Oil Belt Camp
Sunday, March 13, 2016	Sign Up for Christian Women’s Conference at Lincoln Christian University, Wed. April 27, cost \$35 - FCC Welcome Center
Sunday, March 13, 2016	Second Session of War Room Study & Prayer - FCC Basement 6:00 pm Sunday or 9:30 am Wednesday
Sunday, March 20, 2016	Third Session of War Room Study & Prayer - FCC Basement 6:00 pm Sunday or 9:30 am Wednesday
Sunday, March 27, 2016	Easter Breakfast with FCC Family (more details later) Last day for early registration (\$10) for Priscilla Shirer Simulcast (April 23)
Sunday, April 3, 2016	Fourth Session of War Room Study & Prayer - FCC Basement 6:00 pm Sunday or 9:30 am Wednesday
Sunday, April 10, 2016	Last Day to Sign Up for Christian Women’s Conference - FCC Welcome Center Last session of War Room Study & Prayer - FCC Basement 6:00 pm Sunday or 9:30 am Wednesday
Saturday, April 23, 2016	Priscilla Shirer Simulcast at FCC 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Wednesday, April 27, 2016	Leave FCC at 7: 15 am for Christian Women’s Conference at Lincoln Christian University

## Worship, Study and Fellowship Opportunities for all FCC Women



Priscilla SHIRER  
SIMULCAST

### *Come Spend a Day with Priscilla*

We are so excited to be hosting the Priscilla Shirer Simulcast. It will be held Saturday, April 23 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. The doors will open at 8:00 am for registration and coffee. What a wonderful chance to come together with women from the surrounding communities to study God's word! Priscilla will be joined by Anthony Evans and the Praise Team for worship.

Registration forms will be available at the Welcome Center. Cost of this event is \$10, which includes a lunch. Deadline for Early Bird registration is March 29. After that date, the registration fee will be \$15.

Volunteers are needed for the day of the simulcast. We would love to see the women of our church here to welcome other ladies from the area. Lifeline Christian Bookstore out of Effingham will have a booth, and we will need some ladies to help man it. We are also looking for some men to serve lunch and help with cleanup. It will be a simple lunch of pre-made sandwiches and chips. If you are interested in helping, please e-mail Amy or Jennifer at [outreach@fccneoga.org](mailto:outreach@fccneoga.org), or call the church and leave a message.

### **War Room Study on Prayer - Begins March 6, 2016**

This study utilizes movie clips from the movie War Room in an effort to help us grow our prayer life. We will offer this study on Sunday evening at 6 pm and Wednesday morning at 9:30 am. The weekly topics are as follows: 1. Dealing With Spiritual Lukewarmness; 2. Christian Accountability; 3. Grasping Grace and The Gospel; 4. Engaging In Spiritual Warfare; and 5. Trusting God In Prayer. Sign up sheets for participation are available at the Welcome Center. This five week study will begin the week of March 6 and will continue the weeks of March 13 & 20 and April 4 & 11.

### **Ladies' Day at Oil Belt Christian Service Camp - Saturday, March 12, 2016**

The focus for this year's program is *Our Hope and Our Anchor* (Hebrews 6: 19). Carla Scott from Ozark Christian College will be the main speaker. Marie Lakin of Central Christian Church in Lawrenceville, IL will lead the Workshop, and Sherry Bopp of Highland Church of Christ in Robinson, IL will lead Worship. Registration of \$15 includes a light breakfast and lunch. We will leave FCC at 7:30 am and anticipate returning by 3:15 pm. Sign-up at the FCC Welcome Center ends today, February 28. Envelopes are provided for you to include your \$15 cash or check (made payable to: Oil Belt Camp), which may then either be placed in the offering plate or given to Jane Baker or Carolyn Bartlett.

### **Ladies' Day at Lincoln Christian University - Wednesday, April 27, 2016**

Come enjoy the messages of two extraordinary women of faith... both are sought-after Christian communicators in America today. **Michele Cushatt**, a storyteller at heart, gifted speaker and author will be bringing a message from her unique life experiences as written in her latest book, *Undone: A Story of Making Peace With an Unexpected Life*. Additionally, LCU's own Professor of Worship at Lincoln Christian Seminary, popular speaker and author, **Dr. Dinelle Frankland**, will be speaking from *Psalms 23*. We will leave FCC at 7:15 am and anticipate being home by 5:30 pm. Registration at the FCC Welcome Center begins March 13 and ends April 10. The cost is \$35 and includes a box lunch. Envelopes will be provided for you to include your \$35 cash or check (made payable to: Lincoln Christian University / For: Christian Women's Conference), which may then either be placed in the offering plate or given to Jane Baker or Carolyn Bartlett.

Jr. High students have a desperate desire to know what's real. Finding answers in today's world is easy—from cell phones to internet to social media. Jr. High students literally have the ability to look up any question they have in a matter of seconds. **Finding the *truth* is more difficult.**

This year, Believe (Jr. High CIY [Christ in Youth]) will challenge Jr. High students to switch on the light and understand that truth matters. There's more to life than just the facts they can find so easily. There's a foundational truth of God that can shape the rest of their lives.

Satan's two tactics are to convince you the light is dark, or the dark is light. God has one tactic: Be the light. By exploring the life of Jesus this year, Believe will help Jr. High students find the truth.

Believe is coming up very quickly. I just this minute made my reservations: 24 students and 7 adults will be going to Springfield, IL on April 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> to learn how to "Switch on the Truth." This will be an awesome time for the kids and us adults, but we need some help. We have enough money right now to pay for all the registrations and about half of the hotel rooms. I am asking you to prayerfully consider giving some money to help send these kids to learn about God and how He can work in their lives. I know all these kids and know that all of them have stories. Some of their stories make me cry when I think about all they have had to deal with in their lives. When you put yourself in their shoes, you wonder at how well they have done so far. I am asking you to come alongside them and help send them to this time of helping and learning about God. I know many of you are getting your tax refund checks right now; please consider putting some of that money towards these kids; they need your help.

Another great way to help us is to pray for these kids as they go. Pray that God speaks to them and they are open and willing to let Him in. Satan will work and attack these kids to keep them from going or hearing about God's love for them. Pray for them as they prepare to go.

# 4/14



**believe**

*"...I just this minute made my reservations, **24 students and 7 adults** will be going to Springfield, IL on April 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> to learn how to "**Switch on the Truth.**" This will be an awesome time for the kids and us adults, but we need some help."*

*Please consider "adopting" a student on this trip by making a donation and by praying for them.*

Keera Beccue

Justin Bullock

Tyler Crafton

Elizabeth Davis

Nick DeRosia

Marissa Ellis

Miles Endebrock

Nia Fuller

Melaney Gentry

Mykal Gentry

Jeanette Harris

Winter Huffman

Dani Kersey

Preston Lake

Maddison McClure

Megan Morrison

Kyrah Oakley

Ethan Ohmstead

Rylee Peterson

Sean Schisler

Amanda Schulte

Leiko Schuppert

Haley Stodden

Myah Wright

## Info for Seniors

**March 10: New EIU Campus Minister (2016-2017)** to speak at Senior Fellowship

Roger Songer, the Campus Minister at EIU for the past 32 years is retiring at the end of this academic year. Matthew Thomas, current Associate Campus Minister, will be taking over as lead campus minister upon Roger's retirement. We will have the opportunity to meet and hear from Matthew Thomas at our Senior Fellowship, March 10, 2016 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. All seniors (50 and older) are encouraged to attend and welcome Matthew to First Christian. We will even welcome those individuals under 50.

Our college students face many challenges. Matthew's presentation will enable us to learn about the Christian Campus House's programs, concerns, celebrations, and future endeavors, as well as to demonstrate our support of this Ministry. The Christian Campus House is one of FCC's missions. Plan to attend and enjoy the worship, fellowship, and lunch with Matthew, FCC staff, and seniors of all ages. Meat (fried chicken), drinks and table service will be provided; each person attending should bring a vegetable, salad, or dessert to share.

**April 21: Southern Illinois Seniors' Luncheon**, musical program, fellowship and devotions will be held at Fairfield, IL. This event is hosted by Lincoln Christian University, and St. Louis Christian College. More details to follow later.

## Community Clothesline:

February 4th. 32 Families and 90 Individuals.

February 18th. 13 Families and 40 Individuals.

## Neoga Community Food Pantry:

44 families; 147 people served

4 deliveries

12 volunteers; 25 1/4 volunteer hours

March: Mixed vegetables

April: Tuna

## walk your way to health

### ONLY 30 MINUTES OF WALKING A DAY...



9 am - 10 am M-F

Former Grade School, 641 W 6th St, Neoga

Is open for "hall walking"



Sunday, March 27

9:00 - 9:45 am

Breakfast food donations (egg casseroles, baked goods, fruit, etc) are requested. Please sign up at Welcome Center.



**In Wee Worship** during the month of March, we will be learning about Joseph over the first three Sundays. On Easter Sunday we will have Resurrection

Eggs, which have symbols to teach the children about different events during the death and resurrection of Jesus. There will also be a small surprise for all wee worshippers that day!

	Video	Audio	Greeters	Children's Ministry	Communion	Servers
6	Zach	Aubrey	Wilma Burton	<u>Nursery</u> : Cathy & Mahayla Oakley <u>Wee Worship</u> : Sheri Coen, Andrea Workman <u>K-5th</u> : Jennifer Davis, John Tomlinson	Jack Gilbert David Coen Don Coen Doug Moore	Bill Kenworthy Tom Tomlinson Alan Baker Doug Baker
13	Zach	Tom	Marian Lindley	<u>Nursery</u> : Joann Miller, Pam Storm <u>Wee Worship</u> : Louella Drum, Katie Hakman <u>K-5th</u> : Joni McClure, Julie Altman, Chanille Oakley	Bill Kenworthy Chad Walk Art Walk Barry Conn	Jack Gilbert Harry Starwalt Doug Moore Alan Baker
20	Matt	Tom	Terry & Joann Miller	<u>Nursery</u> : John & Reeni Letizia <u>Wee Worship</u> : Cheryl Gilbert, Penny Hess <u>K-5th</u> : Paul & Amber Lake, Austin Robinson	Zach Letizia Tom Tomlinson Paul Lake Doug Moore	David Coen Don Coen Barry Conn Bill Kenworthy
27	Jim	Aubrey	Fontella	<u>Nursery</u> : Judy Starwalt, Linda Baker <u>Wee Worship</u> : Rory & Paula Gentry <u>K-5</u> : Joni McClure, Zach Letizia	Jack Gilbert Art Walk Harry Starwalt Alan Baker	Zach Letizia Paul Lake Chad Walk Doug Baker

# March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
M-F 9am Hall Walking at former grade school		1 9:30-11:30 Volunteers at Heartland  Alan Baker Charles Latch Lija Workman	2 9:30am Ladies' Study 2pm 4th & 5th Bible Study 5:15pm 4/14 Prayer 6pm 4/14 6:30pm Small Group 8:30pm College Group	3 1-7:30pm Clothesline 5-6:30pm Community Easter Meal 6-7pm Food Pantry  Chanille Oakley	4 6:30 War Room movie	5
6 5pm Prayer 6pm Ladies' Study Small Group 5-7pm Culver's Ciy Fundraiser  Ashley Bauguss	7	8 Joni McClure Janice & Marty Dole Jacob & Brianna Dow	9 9:30am Ladies' Study 2pm 4th & 5th Bible Study 5:15pm 4/14 Prayer 6pm 4/14 6:30pm Small Group 8:30pm College Group Tom Huffman	10 11m-1pm Seniors' Luncheon	11 Ann Conn	12 7:30am Ladies Day at Oil Belt
13 3pm Elders' Mtg 4pm Financial Board Mtg 5pm Prayer 6pm Ladies' Study Small Group	14 Wilma Burton Barry Conn	15 Bob & Sue Potter	16 9:30am Ladies' Study 2pm 4th & 5th Bible Study 5:15pm 4/14 Prayer 6pm 4/14 6:30pm Small Group 8:30pm College Group	17 1-5pm Clothesline  Kellee Beccue	18	19 Carter Davis Phyllis Krueger
20 3pm Elders' Mtg 4pm Elder/Staff Mtg 5pm Prayer 6pm Ladies' Study Small Group  Chris Davis	21 Judy Starwalt	22	23 9:30am Ladies' Study 2pm 4th & 5th Bible Study 5:15pm 4/14 Prayer 6pm 4/14 6:30pm Small Group 8:30pm College Group	24	25	26
27 <i>Resurrection Sunday</i> 9am Breakfast 10 am Worship Building Fund Sunday  Pam Moore	28 Marian Lindley Chad Walk	29 8am Seniors' Breakfast at the Depot  Barry & Ann Conn	30 2pm 4th & 5th Bible Study 5:15pm 4/14 Prayer 6pm 4/14 6:30pm Small Group 8:30pm College Group  Chuck & Carolyn Bartlett	31		