

**It seems sometimes to me like I begin half of my *Connecting Point* article with the phrase, “This past weekend was a great weekend at Celebration Church” – but this time I really, really, really mean it!** This past weekend began with our Friday evening *Celebration at City Park* event, and what an great time of fun and fellowship that was. First, it was incredible that our church and school “packed out” City Park. Second, the fellowship that occurred was wonderful as well. Third, it was unbelievable that so much fun could be had by family members and friends for \$10/person. I want to thank our CCCS Parents Club, and especially Sheila Schwertz, for organizing this project for us.

On Saturday we hosted the *New Orleans Purpose Driven Church Conference*. This Conference focused on helping Pastors and Church Leaders develop “healthy churches” that grow spiritually and numerically. The Conference provided Pastors and Leaders with a strategy and with tools to enable them to lead their Church to:

- Reach the non-Christian and un-churched people of their community and region
- Assimilate those same people into a vibrant and growing Church family
- Disciple the new Christians to become fully devoted followers of Jesus
- Equip their member to become Leaders in the Church
- Empower their Leaders to become Difference-makers in their community and culture

Almost 300 Pastors and Church Leaders attended the *New Orleans Purpose Driven Church Conference*, and I saw most of them leave with “hope” in their eyes. What I mean is they left the Conference believing they now have the strategy and tools that will enable them lead their Church to grow spiritually and numerically, which creates the real possibility of truly transforming our city and region for the glory of the Lord.

Thirdly, we had great **Weekend Worship Services** at all three of our campuses this past weekend. In every service at every campus we had people giving their lives to the Lord, coming forward for prayer and ministry, and experiencing the refreshing and liberating power of the Holy Spirit in their lives. All-in-all, this was one of the greatest weekends of fellowship, worship and ministry ever been experienced by the Celebration Congregation.

**This coming weekend is *Mother’s Day Weekend (May 9-10)*, and we will also be “kicking off” a new message series entitled, *Bedtime Stories*.** In the trailer for the recent movie *Bedtime Stories*, the question is posed: “What would happen if the stories you tell your children actually come true?” In this series we will be addressing that premise, as we look in depth at some of the stories (or parables) told by Jesus when He walked and talked on planet Earth. We will also be learning how to not only apply the principles from Jesus’ stories to our lives, but also how to impart them to others around us, especially those from younger generations.

Be sure to plan to join us at one of our campuses as we begin the *Bedtime Stories* series this *Mother’s Day Weekend*. We will also be honoring mothers, and giving gifts to all women who attend our services. *Mother’s Day Weekend* provides us with a great opportunity to bring mothers, children or spouses with us to our services. Therefore, I encourage all mothers to say to those you love, “The best thing you can do for me this Mother’s Day is come with me to Celebration Church.”

**The National Day of Prayer is this coming Thursday, May 7.** At our Metairie and River Parishes Campuses, we're getting a "head start" on the National Day of Prayer by having special Prayer and Praise services on Wednesday evening, May 6, beginning at 7 pm. The Metairie Campus Prayer and Praise Service will take place in the CCCS Auditorium, due to the great Youth services that are going on in the Transcontinental Drive Worship Center.

Our St. Bernard Campus will have a special Prayer and Praise Service on Thursday, May 7 (6:30 pm). I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities to come and pray for our nation, our state and our region, and for our national, state and local leaders. We will also be praying for revival in our churches and spiritual awakening in our city and region.

***Waiting on Kevin* is the title of a book written by LuAnn and Kevin Kubik, members here at Celebration Church.** The book tells us how over a period of time the Lord worked miraculously to answer LuAnn's prayers and deliver her husband Kevin from his addictions, anger and highly dysfunctional life. Several months ago we featured Kevin's testimony in one of our worship services. I have personally enjoyed hearing and reading their story, and a number of others have indicated to me how much hope and encouragement they received from reading *Waiting on Kevin*. Copies of the book can be purchased at our Celebration Bookstore.

I share this to inform you that Kevin and LuAnn's story will be televised this coming Thursday (May 7) at 8 am and 8 pm on WHNO Channel 20 (The Harvest Show). You may want to tune in and hear this exciting story about how the Lord answers prayers and transforms people's lives.

Rejoicing in all the Lord is doing to transform lives, reconcile marriages, restore families, and provide for and protect His people.

Pastor Dennis