

The Threshold

Living Between Two Worlds

VOL. I, ISSUE 4

OCTOBER 25, 2009

To be an open door to a life-changing gospel.

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Sunday Worship
9:25 am in Sanctuary 1
11:00 am in Sanctuary 2

Event Calendar

Saturday Morning Prayer 7:30 a.m.	
Oct 24-25	SALT Lock-In
Oct 31	Fall Festival
Nov 6-7	Men's Retreat
Nov 14	Love & Respect Marriage Seminar
Nov 15	Baptism Service
Nov 21	Thanksgiving Manna Ministry
Dec 6-7	<i>An Evening in December</i>
Dec 13	Congregational Meeting

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Following Jesus Together, One Small Group at a Time

by Pastor John Cha

It's Friday night – 7:50PM. Robert and Jenny answer the knock on their door, warmly welcoming the three latecomers commuting in from Falls Church. Great! Everyone's here! Food is served: curry and rice! Yes. 8:20PM. Michelle welcomes the small group and gives an announcement. "Hey guys, Jaxon will be going out to Manna tomorrow. Those of us Manna volunteers, be sure to carpool with him." Monica takes a deep breath and begins to share her testimony of how she came to know Jesus and of how her life has changed as she's been following Him these past two years. At the end, people applaud; everyone thanks her for sharing, and one of them volunteers to pray a blessing upon their sister. Afterwards, Mark leads the group through a time of worship. Tony and Michelle then proceed to lead the discussion on Jonah 1, preached that Sunday by Pastor Dihan. And then they split up and pray. By the way, Jack, Nancy and Rachel are downstairs providing childcare for the six kids. 11:00PM. Someone pulls out a game of Sequence. Finally, everyone begins to slowly stream out at 1 AM, a little tired, but deeply refreshed. Close to one another, but most of all, closer to God.

Such is small group, the body of Jesus – at least on a weeknight with 20 people.

Where We Are As Small Groups

Several things happen as we gather in our small groups:

- **We enter community.** Given our size as a church – and now with two services – it's easy to miss out on community. Our small groups enable us to meet people and to share life together in Christ.
- **We enter into His Word.** We open up a passage from Holy Scriptures and take time to reflect, sharing insights and truths. Or as Colossians 3:16 urges, we let the passage "dwell in us richly."
- **We enter into the rest of our church.** People intersect with the rest of our church, especially our ministry life. And so, you hear the following in our groups. . . "Hey everyone, can we pray tonight for our Women's retreat this Friday." "Hi, our youth retreat is coming up and we need counselors. Anyone interested?"

While these elements of our groups are important, they are not the "ends" in and of themselves. We want to foster the growth of *community, study of the Word, and overall church life*, but all this serves a greater end. . . a much greater and eternal end.

Where We're Heading As Small Groups

- **To follow Jesus together.** This sums up our end goal. To be disciples and followers of Jesus. It's our vision as small groups, and it's a wonderful vision because 2,000 years ago, Jesus had this same vision for His "small group." It was also His Great Commission "to make disciples" (Matthew 28:19). **So we are looking at some changes with this end in mind. . .**
- To help us all get on the same page, our pastors will be **preaching through a sermon series on Jesus and what it means to follow Him**, and because **our studies will be sermon-based**, we'll be able to discuss the implications in the context of our small groups.
- To help us deepen in our relationships with each other, **we'll be extending our small group terms beyond the single Sept-May term.** We hope to meet at least for two years together.
- To nurture discipleship, we'll model it in our leadership structure through our **core structure**, where I'll be meeting with the core leaders, and they in turn will be meeting

(Continued on page 2)

A Pinch of SALT (Seekers After the Living Truth)



Mina Choi (far left) is a student at George Washington University and Stephanie Shin (second from right) is a student at Georgetown University. They are just two of the many college students who form the SALT community at Open Door.

How has being a Christian impacted your college experience? How has it challenged you, helped you? How has it made your experience different?

Mina: Being a Christian has tremendously impacted my collegiate experience in a positive way. It was here I finally got to put my faith that I received in high school to the test. Going to church, getting plugged into a fellowship, and living a "different" life than the typical college student was all my decision. It is extremely tempting to go partying on "thirsty Thursdays" and sleep in on Sundays like every other college student; however, I believe God calls me to be different and walk the narrow path.

Honestly, I don't know what I would've done without Jesus in my college experience. While I can do so much to try and get good grades, good recommendations, and work experience, it is Jesus who is in control of my future and who is my security. There are times as a college student that I freak out about my future, but Jesus is near to me and he comforts me.

Stephanie: Being a Christian throughout my college career has impacted me in many ways, in everything from my study habits to the quiet times I have with God. Just realizing it now, I noticed the trend that when any physical or mental part of my being faced a fork in the road, I've always

managed to meditate and pray to God. Immersed in a culture of radicalism—ironically at a Jesuit university—I know I once reached the bottom brim of becoming a non-believer; however because of SALT, I made a progressive move to success in passing such a critical stage of my life. I never understood why people used to say, "it's good to ask questions from doubtful

I love ODPC... but sadly I feel like I know no one when I walk in on Sundays. I think SALT bridges the community of college students to the community of post-college adults.

thoughts," but I now feel like I can stand in those same shoes and pass it along to other struggling hearts. I also remember Pastor Dihan once saying that one has to be thankful even for the 'bad things' in life. After breaking through such dark times, I think I've also learned to be thankful for making the mistakes that I have made. Without being thankful, I don't think I could have broken the shell of being a once-intimidated Christian.

How is Christianity perceived on campus? How are Christians perceived on campus?

Mina: At GWU, it has become the "right" attitude to be open-minded to a lot of controversial subjects that Christians are adamantly closed-minded towards. Because of that, Christians are perceived as judgmental, and enforcers of our own beliefs upon others. When I tell someone that I am a Christian, I feel like people are trying to inch away as to avoid judgment from me or maybe to avoid arguments. A lot of students have had previous bad experiences with other Christians, which causes their natural disinclination towards them.

Stephanie: Many students practice in theory, appreciating the religion; however, many do not physically act to even be curious. Since the student life is predominantly democratic, identity factors such as religion are always ignored in order to maintain "fairness." Standing up for your religion isn't looked down upon, however when there is an invitation for discussion, it easily transforms into an academic discussion—a kind that many growing Christians like myself struggle with.

As a college student, you have many options of what to do with your time. What draws you to choose to participate in SALT ministry?

Mina: I love ODPC. I love the pas-

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THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Getting to Know Pastor Peter



Pastor Peter & his wife Grace met here at ODPC and have been married for 4 years. He's been a youth pastor for the past 9 years, the last 6 of which have been right here at Open Door and just last week he was officially ordained at our church. Prior to that, he served at his home church, which his parents still attend. They both love the ODPC community and have been so blessed to be a part of what God is doing here.

The average member of the church congregation probably has a vague sense of ordination. Having just recently been ordained, could you explain in your own words what the significance is and what it means to you? How does it impact your perspective on serving God?

To some people, ordination seems like one of those rites of passages that many pastors take in moving up the so-called ladder of ministry. Once you begin the ordination process, some people think that you're now a "real" pastor and you can begin to do "real" ministry. What they're really saying and thinking is, "When are you going to move on from youth group and become a pastor to adults?" I've actually been asked that question!

I laugh at that because that's the perception that a lot of older generation people have and even some younger ones. But I'm blessed to be in

a great church where that is not the norm. As a youth pastor, it's really something quite special to be in youth ministry long enough to be able to have my students see me get ordained. And to me, it's not about moving onto something else now, but rather it's an affirmation that the community I serve is also journeying in their faith with a pastor who is committed to them.

It's really cool because how often do students get to see their youth pastor ordained? Our youth group has been blessed to see two pastors take that step, and I think it's really important because ordination is the final blessing of a church community to install a pastor to their position with trust and commitment. It's that public symbol that this person is set apart to be a shepherd of the community and to grow together in faith with them. And after years of testing their character and competency, we as a church give our final stamp of approval. So it's quite an honor.

It doesn't change that much on how I serve God or how I see serving God in the future. It's still the same: Love God, Love His students. I can do a few more things with an ordination, like lead communion in youth group and perform weddings, but on a week to week basis it's not dramatically different. Maybe some parents will stop thinking that I'm a high school student now that they see me in a suit!

What is the greatest challenge, or what do you feel is the greatest need when it comes to ministering to high schoolers today?

Wow. There are so many. Where do I start? Well, for one thing everything in this generation changes so quickly. What I mean is that it's a complete season of life change for our students. They're changing physically, emotionally, spiritually at a clip that just isn't sustained at any other time in their life. Imagine the stress of work that we have now... but add on top of


that growing 6 inches, your voice changing and other additions in your life! It's a crazy time! To minister to students in that season of life can be really crazy but it can be crazy fun too. We have the amazing privilege of shaping lives and that's really humbling to think of.

Tell us a bit about your family.

I've been married to Grace, the most loving person in my life, for the past 4 years! She's an elementary school teacher and reading teacher with Fairfax County. Her parents and sister have been at ODPC for the last eight or so years and she grew up in New Jersey. Grace is the only youth group teacher that has served here longer than any other ODPC pastor. She's in her 7th year as a youth group teacher (I think... I've only been here 6).

How have you been uniquely blessed serving in this ministry?

One of the unique blessings of serving students is that I am constantly reminded that God is not done shaping these students' lives and characters, nor with mine. I am constantly challenged and shaped by my students because they're not afraid to rock the boat. They're not afraid to push the envelope with their questions in their pursuit after truth. They're not afraid to share with me their hopes and dreams, their fears and failures. And it's extremely honest at times. It's an amazing privilege to walk with my students in the highs and lows of their life and to be able to speak God's love and truth to them during those times.

But the MOST unique blessing, and one of the hardest to wait for, is seeing them leave youth group and growing into amazing young men and women that love God. And to think, man, God used me to have a small part in that. That's amazing. 

THE FOYER

Back to School

Each school year holds the promise of new challenges, knowledge, relationships, and personal growth. Even for those of us whose classroom days have long since passed, the fall still brings a sense of freshness with the renewal of a number of our ministries here at Open Door.

In this issue we hear from our college-related ministry and newly ordained youth group pastor. We also recap our recent Real Revival weekend, introduce our new small groups, and provide updates on Open Door's ongoing missions ministries and partnerships around the world. It's our hope that the articles within will provide a look into vital ministries that members may not encounter directly.

If there are other ministries you would like to read about, please drop us a line at odpcthreshold@gmail.com.

God Bless!

- Gene Lee, Jackie Kwon, & Najean Lee

Congratulations

- To Young-mee and Matthew Yuri Kim, married on 7/25/09.
- To John and Jimin Lee, married on 8/1/09.
- To Andrew and Jodie on the birth of their son, Ryan Sejin Kim on 8/29/09.
- To John and Cindy on the birth of their son, Tyler Jihoon Kim on 8/28/09.
- To Sun and Kathy on the birth of their daughter, Ava Yun on 8/28/09.
- To Peter and Alice on the birth of their son, Stephen Sung Joon Lee on 10/17/09.
- To Richard and Julie Kao on the birth of their daughter, Rebecca Noelle Kao on 10/22/09.
- To John and Nina on the birth of their daughter, Gracie Eun Jung Yim on 10/23/09.

Condolences

To Judy Park and Heidi Jung,
on the passing of their mother.


Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Following Jesus Together

(Continued from page 1)

with their group of small group leaders. We hope that this will allow for greater sharing and life-to-life interaction for our leaders. We also will be creating an **apprenticeship track** so that our members can be trained and raised to become future small group leaders.

- Finally, to help keep our groups smaller and to promote overall growth, we will actively **"branch out"** our groups to create new groups. We will also raise up our **Foyer Groups** so that those who are not in groups can still experience small group life with others.

These are many, exciting initiatives, but as Proverbs 19:21 reminds us, we may have many plans, but it's God's purposes that prevail. Amen. So we wait and are open to His changes in *our plans*. But in the end, we know *His purpose* for us is good and true – to follow Jesus together. 

Meet Your Elder Candidates

This is the second of a two part series interviewing our elder candidates, Yooshik Seo, Harry Choi, and Scott Kim.

Briefly explain your sense of calling to eldership.

Yooshik: I think that God is raising our church up to go to the "next level" so to speak. With that requires the proper government and structure so that we can flourish as a healthy body of believers. Harry, Scott and I are only representatives of the leap that we as a church are making. We will need to grow up more, take more responsibility and accountability as the

Church and I believe all of us are being called to rise up.

Harry: My sense of personal calling is always to be used by God to draw others nearer to Him in my family, community, and work place. I also believe that God has given me gifts of administration, service and leadership to be used for His benefit. And if God would choose to use me in a position of an elder in our Open Door family and community to serve Him in this manner with gifts, I would be thankful that I can be useful. I don't think I can say that I sense my calling to be an elder; but rather that it's more of a personal ambition (may I say, "Godly ambition") to live up to my sense of personal calling with His gifts given to me for His glory.

Scott: I wouldn't say that I was "called" to eldership in the same way that I feel called to "Missions". But it is rather a journey which began some 19+ years ago. Throughout my years at ODPC, God placed me in various positions of leadership and believe it or not, even as a praise leader. Of course, this was when they were desperate. Functionally, I believe that I have been serving as an elder/overseer of the church in the roles of shepherding and governance. I have always been and remain committed to seeing that ODPC is sound in its doctrine, faithful to its call and passionate in its worship. I am committed not by obligation that comes with a title, but rather compelled by my love for our church.

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THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Good Things Come in Small Groups: Meet your small group leaders!



LOUDOUN



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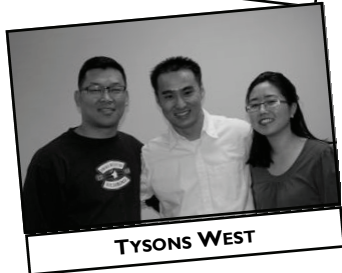
CENTREVILLE



SOUTH RIDING



FALLS CHURCH



TYSONS WEST



TYSONS EAST



HERNDON



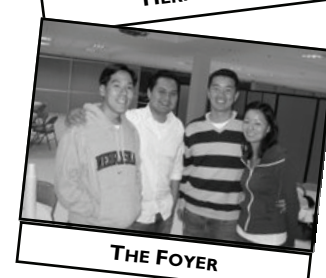
ARLINGTON



ALEXANDRIA



WOMEN'S STUDY



THE FOYER

Loudoun (couples): Larry & Pam Lippincott || **Centreville-Fairfax** (couples): Sharon & David Lee || **Centreville**: Tae Gam, Phil Chung
South Riding: Terry Kim, Tina Cha, Daniel Lee || **Falls Church** (couples): Kathy & Benji Kwak || **Tyson's West**: John Yim, James Lee, Jennifer Kim
Tyson's East: Linda Park, Jim Lee || **Herndon**: John & Jimin Lee || **Arlington**: Christina Lee*, SunJun Park, Nathan Lee, Najean Lee
Alexandria: Julie Yoo, Gene Lee || **Women's**: Jamyung Lee || **Foyer**: John Sim, Steve Kim*, Tom & Michelle Lee*, Not pictured: David & Anna Park*
Core Group Leaders (not pictured): Charles Choi and Terry Kim; Stephanie Lee and Roy Park; Susan Kim and Minsuk Lee [*Apprentice]

Elder Candidates

(Continued from page 4)

What is your prayer/vision for Open Door?

Yooshik: My greatest desire for us is that we, as a church, would embrace all of the life that is in Christ. Many of us cleave to our past, whether for good or for bad, but I believe that it is time to go forward, believe what is in the Bible and start to live it out. A particular emphasis for me is the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. The Christian journey was never meant to be done on gritty discipline alone. Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit so that we could walk in His power and love, to break through

every barrier and wall in front of us. Some may describe that as "charismatic," but I prefer "continuationist" – the gifts and active work of the Holy Spirit have never ceased and continue today.

Harry: My prayer and vision for Open Door is no different than the vision set for our church, to be an Open Door to a Life-Changing Grace (Gospel). And may I confess my selfishness here by saying that, as a song goes, I pray it "start with me." I truly desire to be transformed in real, visible ways, more than I see myself today, to be more like Christ through this Life-Changing Grace.

Scott: My prayer/vision for Open

Door is that we would become the kind of church where our existence matters in both the physical realm and more importantly, in the spiritual realm. That if one day, ODPG ceased to exist, the impact would be significant to our local communities around us and to the communities around the world. That Satan and his spiritual minions would celebrate the demise of ODPG because of its ability to demolish strongholds and its determination to hasten the return of our glorious King by taking the gospel to the ends of the earth. ☞

Lay Eldership Vote at Next
 Congregational Meeting
 Sunday, December 13, 2009

THE FIELD

**November is
Missions
Month! Look
what's in store
for ODPC.**

Speakers

11/1 Sara Choe
"What Satan wants you to Forget"

11/8 Dr. Samuel Moffett
"Looking Back: How Korea Embraced Christianity"

11/15 Matt and Colleen Echohawk-Hayashi
"Cross-Cultural Missions - Sharing the gospel across cultural barriers"

11/22 James and Soo Lee
"Life Changing Power of the Gospel"

11/29 Daniel Kim
"What's Your Mission?"

Interest Meetings

11/1 Q & A w/ Sara Choe
L-4 12:45-2:00

11/8 China/NK
Interest Meeting
L-4 12:45-2:00

11/15 ULC Summer Camp
Interest Meeting
L-4 12:45-2:00

11/22 Gambia
Interest Meeting
L-4 12:45-2:00

11/29 Central Asia
Interest Meeting
L-4 12:45-2:00

Pray for ODPC Missionaries!

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Please email odpcthreshold@gmail.com for updated prayer requests.

THE CORRIDOR

In Search of Real Revival

by Emma Thompson-Mensah


REAL REVIVAL, why that description, I wondered when the announcement was first made concerning the revival. I kept wondering week after week why 'real' revival and not just revival.

Then came the information on the 40 day prayer and fasting chain and immediately I knew the organizers of the program wanted a supernatural move from God. The prayer and fasting program was excellently planned and it was fantastic. It gave everyone who wanted to be part of it the opportunity to do so and it was not difficult to fast at all. Thank God for the opportunity to pray. I am looking forward to more of such prayer chains.

The weeks went by and the sermons based on the Prophet Hosea were preached. After the first sermon, there was no doubt in my heart that we didn't just need a revival but we needed a **real revival**. The second sermon came and the emptiness,

brokenness, discomfort and shame I had felt after the previous week's sermon intensified. My 'appetite was whetted' for the real revival weekend and I wished the time could be pushed forward for September 25th to come quickly. After these two sermons, I knew I needed God more than I had ever thought and I wanted to believe others felt the same. Thanks to our Pastors who thought it wise to prepare us with the lives of Hosea and Gomer.

Finally, the real revival weekend came and after the first night I was overwhelmed. I had never analyzed Christ's death on the cross as Rev. Dates had done that evening. Is this what Jesus our Lord went through?

I believe God is calling us to a whole new relationship. A relationship that will cause 'outsiders' to desire to have Jesus. I know we were really revived and we must live up to the task of being revived. He went out of His comfort zone to make us comfortable. We need to do the same. 

August at the Lake

I stripped off the towel
and the elastic buoying my hair
into a tight fist on my head.
Dusk felt strange on my skin.

I swam through the silence
with a turtle's seamlessness
until my head rested between
sky and earth.

God pressed his ear then
to the celestial sphere,
and I whispered my hunger
for years and for children.

The stars spun in their orbits
and hummed a hymn. One plucked
itself from heaven and dropped
to bless the earth.

The beauty of it sent me
under, lungs breathing out life.
I emerged from the water
shaking, skin puckered like a new-
born's.

by Jumi Kim

Goodbye Guilt, Hello Grief.

by Alice Kim

Is it healthy to forgive someone who has caused you pain and consequently caused you to be in an extended season of grief? Do you ever feel guilty for experiencing grief after you've forgiven someone?

It's rare to miss a Sunday without hearing about how God forgives us and how we need to forgive others. The cross embodies the quintessential definition of that. But while forgiveness promises freedom, how does it reconcile with being held captive to grief?

Reconciling the convergence of grief and genuine forgiveness is something I've been professionally and per-

sonally wrestling with for the past several months. Working in the field of psychotherapy, the concept of grief is a common thread among those who are hurting and looking for hope. Grief is most commonly understood as the experience of losing a loved one to death. However, it can also be


While time alone does not mysteriously mend all pain, it does provide the space needed for mourning.

applied to other forms of loss: shattered dreams, stolen innocence, betrayal of a sacred trust, and injustices among humanity.

I believe that forgiveness and grief do not necessarily follow the same timetable.

Forgiveness is a personal decision addressing each incident. Grief, conversely, involves a process that can continue before and even long after the act of forgiveness has taken place. The restoration process cannot be hurried or shortened. To do so invites anger, bitterness, depression, and anxiety. Instead, it's healthy to acknowledge and embrace how the pain has shaken your sense of emotional and spiritual security.

While time alone does not mysteriously mend all pain, it does provide the space needed for mourning. It also provides an opportunity for trust, security, and hope to be restored, which are benchmarks of spiritual and emotional health.

If you have any comments, questions, or feedback, please contact alice@emmausccs.com. 

THE NEIGHBORHOOD

A Pinch of SALT*(Continued from page 2)*

tors, the praise team, the retreats, but sadly I feel like I know no one when I walk in on Sundays. I think SALT bridges the community of college students to the community of post-college adults. SALT keeps it real. It is a really comfortable environment to open up and share. I have to give many props to the staff because they are awesome people. The first time I started consistently coming out to SALT, it was so evident that the SALT staff put so much time, energy, and effort into every activity or outing that we did. I could really tell that they cared about us.

Stephanie: I am drawn in to the responsibility of having to attend at my own will. Since there is not a fellowship within arms reach on campus, it gives me something to look forward to, and also something to go to as an escape from the various pressures in school.

How integrated is SALT with your life on campus? Are they separate worlds or is there continuity between them?

Mina: SALT is a supplement to Church just like my campus fellowship. It's good that we have both because it keeps us focused on Him on a weekly basis. The SALT staff has been great about meeting up with a lot of students not out of obligation but because of friendship and community. I think because of this there is continuity from SALT onto the campus life.

Stephanie: Within the week, campus life pretty much consumes the mind and body so fast and by so much. If it wasn't for SALT fellowship once a week, I don't think I would even be able to see other SALT members that go to the same school as me. 📱

Worth a Thousand Words...***A Collage of the Past Season at ODPC****Manna takes place every third Saturday of the month**Pastor Peter Cha and Reverend Charlie Dates come to ODPC to speak at our REAL Revival.**Pastor Dihan baptizes one of ODPC's newest additions.**ODPC gets REAL about Revival.**Pastor Sung Il, Heidi, and kids return for home assignment and birth of their newest addition, Jayna.**Foyer Group bible studies kick off for the first time at church.**Ladies learn, share, and bond at the fall Women's Retreat.*

Send us your photos! Email pictures from ODPC events to odpcthreshold@gmail.com.
Thanks!