



pastor's PEN

Dear Lakeview Family,

In a 1983 speech, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn gave this summary explanation for why all the atrocities of Soviet communism occurred: “Men have forgotten God; that’s why all this has happened.” I cannot help but think of his assessment when I read that the White House proclaimed Resurrection Sunday as “Transgender Day of Visibility.” While recognizing this is the fifteenth year in a row that March 31st has been recognized as such, and it just happened to fall on Easter this year, I would strongly submit that to have this day at all, on any day, is largely explained by Solzhenitsyn’s insight.

But how did we get here? A volume of books could be written in answer to this question. A pastor’s column cannot adequately address that. But I would like to make you aware of a gathering that occurred in 2006 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, that has played a massive role in the LGBTQ+ movement.

This gathering of self-designated “human rights experts” drew up a series of demands, ones that came to be known as the “The Yogyakarta Principles,” which has become a foundational text in connecting LGBTQ+ rights to the concept of human rights.

This group demanded that human rights principles should be applied to all people, in every nation, whatever their “sexual orientation” or “gender identity.” One’s “gender identity” was defined as “each person’s deeply felt internal and individual experience of gender, which may or may not correspond to the sex assigned at birth.”

This became a demand that governments should accept and let us be clear this was not merely an effort to make sure that minority groups should not be ill-treated. As Christians, we recognize we have a mandate to love everyone. It is a mark that we are disciples of Christ. No one should be mocked or ill-treated.

But the Yogyakarta Principles represented something of a different stripe than that. If these principles were enshrined in law, it would mean that the following ideas would be regarded as discrimination:

- The belief that marriage is only between a man and a woman.
- The belief that sexual activity should be restricted to marriage.
- The belief that children have a right to know and be brought up by their father and mother.
- The belief that human beings are either male or female from birth.

This would also mean that faithful biblical teaching related to God’s creation design would be classified as discriminatory as well.

To achieve this goal, their aim is to control how children and youth across the world are educated. Since 2007, the UN, the EU, and numerous national governments have committed to implementing these principles with the goal of embedding (Pastor’s Pen continued on next page)

gender theory into law and education. It is not an overstatement to say that wherever sexual orientation or gender identity enjoys legal protections, one can assume the influence of these principles. In fact, the success of this document has been so great, that a further ten principles were added at a second meeting in 2017. The Yogyakarta Principles both summarize the political implications of the LGBTQ+ movement as well, will continue to influence political and legal attitudes towards these ends.

So how should we as a church respond? We evangelize, teach, preach, and disciple. We “contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). We raise our children with a worldview centered on God as the triune Creator-covenant LORD who knew what he was doing when Moses writes: “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them” (Genesis 1:27).

Ironically, “Transgender Visibility Day” was created to help alleviate the plight of Transgender image bearers. Unfortunately, at the core of their plight is that they are unhappy with their biological sex. This is called “gender dysphoria.” They believe they would be more truly themselves if they were able to live as a member of the opposite sex-or, in some cases, as neither. This is an outright denial of the wisdom and sovereignty of our Creator-covenant LORD, and his Word.

And adding to their plight is a government increasingly submitting to the Yogyakarta Principles and a growing culture that affirms these principles. The main help for transgender image bearers will be Christians who love them, pray for them and refuse to mock them or ridicule them. Yet will tell them the truth about their sin and the hope of forgiveness and transformation found in the Lord Jesus Christ who died and rose again to bring about redemption for those who repent and believe. May the Lord give us those opportunities to love them with the gospel. No transgender image bearer is beyond the grace of our Lord Jesus.

Love and Gratitude,
Pastor Brian

FOOD PANTRY – MARCH REPORT

| | |
|--|--------|
| Households fed _____ | 85 |
| Total pounds of food distributed _____ | 4,439 |
| Average pounds per household _____ | 52 |
| Average \$ per household _____ | \$9.30 |



ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING

We will be collecting the Annie Armstrong Easter offering through May 12th.

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North American
Mission Board

**100% of your gifts support
North American missionaries**



cliff's notes ON FAMILY MINISTRY

MEN'S BEAST FEAST FRIDAY, APRIL 5TH | 6:30 PM

This Friday night about 300 men will be meeting for our annual Beast Feast. The night is planned for great food, fun, and especially to encourage one's faith. The fun and good food will naturally happen. The "faith" part needs our prayer. Please be praying for the outreach efforts pertaining to this event. We want our friends to come who need encouragement in their faith. Prayer for this event is essential. God desires to set the captives free. He has bid us to intercede. He will do the work!



LIFE CLASS

A new LIFE class will be offered beginning April 7th in rooms N103-104 at 4:30 PM with Noah Moon and Jann Swaim leading a study on how to read the Bible. *Journey Into God's Word, 2nd edition*, by J. Scott Duvall will be discussed and free to anyone who wants to attend. **Limited books will be available to pick up in the lobby on Sunday morning.**

stay connected



congregational CARE UPDATE

THURSDAYS AT OLE TIMES COUNTRY BUFFET

Please mark your calendars for our next meeting Thursday, April 11th, in the Eagle Room at Ole Times Country Buffet from Noon-1 PM. Caleb, with the company in SE Asia, will be our guest. Pass on the word and bring a friend. It is always a good time.

SPECIAL PRAYER MEETING

Saturday night, April 6th, we will be gathering in the Fellowship Hall at 6 PM for a special hour of intercession. Come join us as we pray for people all over the world who will be striving to please God on this particular holiday. We will be praying that YHWH will reveal Himself to them, through the power of the Holy Spirit in the person of Jesus Christ. All you need is a copy of God's Word and a willing heart to pray on behalf of men and women around the world who do not yet know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.



youth NEWS

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

Last week, our Youth Girls Director, Raxia Bailey, announced that she will be leaving Auburn and Lakeview to pursue ministry opportunities in the Birmingham area in the near future. We have been and continue to be richly blessed as a ministry by her faithfulness both to serve Jesus with passion and love our youth girls so well. Join us in praying in the weeks and months ahead as she prepares to transition and as we consider who the Lord has in store for us as the next Youth Girls Director!



fellowship MEAL

SERVING MEALS 4:45 UNTIL 5:35PM; CLEARING TABLES AT 5:45PM.

APRIL 3

Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes,
Bahama Blend Veggies, Rolls, Salad, Brownies

APRIL 10

Chicken Fajitas, Flour Tortillas,
Toppings, Black Beans, Salad, Peach Cobbler

Fellowship Meals are open to everyone and cost \$5 per person with a \$20 cap per family. Cash or Check only. Menu subject to change.



DISCOVER LAKEVIEW CLASS NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 14

Are you interested in joining Lakeview or just finding out more about us? The Discover Lakeview Class is for you. Bro. Cliff will walk through what we believe as a church, membership and our covenant. We need a reservation from you with the number attending for lunch and childcare. The class will follow the morning service in the Fellowship Hall. Please email Laura Gray at lgray@lakeviewbaptist.org to reserve your spot.

REMEMBER IN prayer

ARBOR LAKE
Nancy Brownfield
Emaleen Fagen
Jennifer Hood
Joe Waller

AZALEA PLACE
Barbara Blankenship

CAMELLIA PLACE
Linda Currie

**CANTERBURY HEALTH
CARE FACILITY**
Dean Baker

EASE HOUSE
Anne Dodge
Harriett McNelly
Larry Ryan

MAGNOLIA PLACE
Nancy Thornton

VALLEY PARK MANOR
Kay Gaillard

**VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER**
Mike Cannon

AT HOME
Matthew Baker
Daniel Benjamin
Matt Beth

Dennis Clark
Ambers Hanson
Fred Holmes
Latriece Jones-Thomas
John Kennedy

Renaë O'Mary
Jane Parker
Matthew Richardson
Lottie Sides
Jackie Snead
Larry Swango
Ilze West
Joe Youngblood

MARCH 31 ATTENDANCE

MORNING SERVICE _____ 1,332
EVENING SERVICE _____ N/A

MARCH 31 GIVING

BUDGET _____ \$53,005.18
RESTRICTED _____ \$12,621.30

LAKEVIEW LIFE | VOL. 64, NO. 60

“ WE BELIEVE THAT GOD’S PURPOSE FOR
LAKEVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH IS TO
LOVE THE LORD GOD AND TO EXPRESS THAT LOVE BY
MAKING, NURTURING AND EQUIPPING
DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST
IN AUBURN AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. ”



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