



# REFLECTIONS

Grace OPC

## What's Going on with Social Fellowship?

By Pastor Brian De Jong

In our continuing series on “What’s Going On?,” I want to tackle one of the less understood and underappreciated aspects of our shared life at Grace Church. I’m going to be talking about our “Social Fellowship” activities.

In order to get our hands on this concept, we need to first realize that there are two words describing these various activities.

Those words are “social” and “fellowship.” The first

word recognizes that people like to do things with other people. God created us for relationships, and the combinations of relationships begin to form a “society.” Social activities are not designed to be conducted alone, apart from all human contact. They are designed to be done together – with lots of interpersonal interaction.

By purposefully planning social activities, we are wanting people to come together, and to interact with one another. We are trying to spawn relationships, which can be a meaningful part of the Christian life. Without these relationships, people grow isolated and lonely. Their personalities turn inward, and become stunted. Life gradually loses meaning, if we have no one to relate to.

Psychologist Paul Vitz once observed that human beings were created for relationships. When we relate to others, our personalities blossom and flourish. If we withdraw from such interactions, we find that we wither and die. Human relationships are essential for all forms of human health and flourishing. This is how God made us – for a relationship

with Himself through Jesus Christ, and for relationships with each other. Love God, and love your neighbor as yourself.

But we should not ignore the second descriptive word – fellowship.



What is fellowship? It is meaningful Christian interaction, where believer builds up believer in the truth of God’s word. Fellowship has an explicitly Christian content to it, and is vital for spiritual growth. So while a

good volleyball game may have plenty of social value, it can be completely empty of any true fellowship.

Fellowship happens when we talk openly and honestly about the things of the Lord, and His will for our lives.

It is our belief that true fellowship can and should happen within opportunities for social interaction. We get together, and we interact as human to human. In the midst of our socializing, we take opportunities to talk about spiritual things, and to build each other up in the faith we share in common.

So here is what the “Social Fellowship” Committee is up to – thoughtfully planning events where the members of our congregation, and their friends, can come together for spiritually edifying interaction. We can encourage one another, and build each other up, even as we have fun together.

This requires certain commitments from our members. First, we seek a commitment to attend the events we

Volume 14, Issue 7

July 2019

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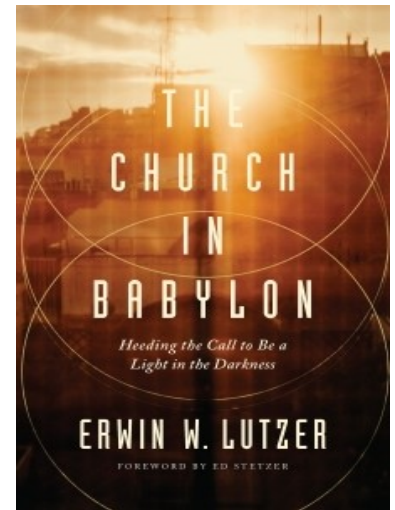
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### Mnemonics...

- *Men’s Fellowship Lunch, July 7th*
- *Session Meeting, July 16th*
- *Timber Rattlers Game, July 19th*

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# Book Review: The Church in Babylon by Erwin Lutzer



We are living in a culture very similar to Daniel's where our faith is being challenged and Christians are treated with hostility. Many Christians are shrinking away from living an open faith because of how they are treated by unbelievers.

Culture demands that we keep our beliefs and faith to ourselves while compromising our morals and values. But what did Daniel do?

Daniel didn't sit back and allow Babylon to influence him. He took a stand. He continued to pray, openly and in public. He continued to live his life under the will of God no matter what happened to him. If Daniel could do it, so can we.

Erwin W. Lutzer, pastor emeritus of The Moody Church in Chicago, answers the pressing questions of our day in his new book, "The Church in Babylon". He teaches us how to serve with Christ's heart and mind in today's Babylon. He also discusses the five false gospels in our churches and staying true to our Christian witness.

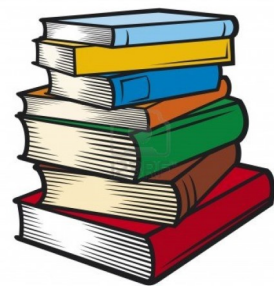
Lutzer walks us through the best ways to respond to transgenderism, immigration and other issues Christians are asked to respond to. We can prevail and be a light in the darkness. "The Church in Babylon" helps us walk in the darkness with love and faithfulness.

Review taken from <https://www.mpnewsroom.com/reviews/church-babylon-review>.  
Submitted by Dan TenPas

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## Library Reminder

When you check out a book, please put your name on the card, and place the card in the box. There is a box by the books in the narthex, in the library, and in the Sunday school room, where the children's books are. Also, whoever checked out the Elsie Dinnsmore books, please let me know. Thanks, Phyllis Nyhof.



# What Does Job 31:13-15 Tell Us About the Unborn?

“If I have rejected the cause of my manservant or my maidservant, when they brought a complaint against me, what then shall I do when God rises up? When he makes inquiry, what shall I answer him? Did not he who made me in the womb make him? And did not one fashion us in the womb?” — [Job 31:13-15](#)

This passage tells us at least three things about the unborn, and thus about abortion:

## **1. The foundation of civil equality is traced to the womb.**

Really, it is traced to God’s having made mankind in his image, but the well-to-do Job is asserting an equality of personhood with his servants based on their equal status as unborn children. Therefore, the unborn are persons with civil rights. This makes abortion a dehumanizing injustice.

## **2. The development of the unborn is a work of God.**

Job says he and his servants were made in the womb, fashioned in the womb. Coupled with [Psalm 139](#)’s words on God’s creative work in the womb, we learn that abortion is therefore tearing apart what God has joined together.

## **3. The treatment of persons as non-persons is something for which we will give an account.**

“What shall I do when God rises up?” Job asks about unjust treatment of his servants. And what will we say? Injustice of this kind will be reckoned with. We will have to give an account to our holy God for the murder of millions of unborn persons he is forming in his image.

No law can be just if its justice for one is predicated on injustice to another.

Taken from the Gospel Coalition, Jared C. Wilson. February 26th, 2019.

# Anchor of Hope Pregnancy Center Update

Written by Jacky Drewry



Recently, I attended a meeting including a number of nonprofit leaders in Sheboygan County. Before the meeting began, a fellow participant began an interesting conversation with me by inquiring about facilities for single moms. He seemed well-informed about the services provided at Anchor of Hope and the fact that we are openly prolife.

He mentioned [The Crossing Home](#) in Manitowoc County as an example of such a home. For those of you not familiar with The Crossing Home, it is a resident facility and community support home for pregnant women, single moms, and women in crisis who are searching for a new beginning. This comprehensive residency program helps women move forward with a healthy and positive life plan, ideally changing circumstances resulting from poor choices, poverty, or other factors.

In a nutshell, the pregnancy medical center in Manitowoc sensed a calling to support women in their community with a long-term solution, including housing, counseling, education, community referrals, and mentoring, to name a few. My fellow meeting attendee inquired whether Anchor of Hope had a residential facility in Sheboygan for moms in similar circumstances.

## **Listening to a different voice**

Within the context of our conversation, my new friend simply stated, "I am very liberal," and without directly saying, "That's the problem I have with you (Anchor of Hope)," he went on to express genuine concern for women in difficult situations who are asked to continue with an unplanned pregnancy. From his point of view, the unplanned pregnancy further compounded a woman's already difficult and hopeless situation. He stated concern regarding bringing a child into an economically challenging situation where upwardly mobile progress was not part of his comprehended vision for a woman's life. Regarding the life of the unborn child in this equation, he made his point clear without speaking the word abortion.

If your mind is entertaining thoughts of an antagonistic conversation – STOP. It was quite cordial. This gentleman and I clearly had similar goals of community wellness and providing help and hope for those in need. However, what was equally clear, was the fact that my new friend and I have very different thoughts and principles regarding how to help others achieve progress in life and break free from a cycle of unhealthy sexual choices.

When the conversation was later continued, I was able to agree with him – "Yes, many of our clients are in difficult situations. And, we have the privilege of serving them comprehensively, serving the whole person." In time, we were able to agree on the fact that the unplanned pregnancy is generally not the fundamental need in a client's life. Understanding the tsunami of relational, economic, housing, educational, mental health, and other needs truly help us holistically serve individuals who walk through our doors.

## **LIFE is OVERWHELMING**

Life can be overwhelming for all of us. This is especially true for our clients. The ability to make clear decisions based on core values can easily become compromised and even lost due to the nature of the whirlwind. This is precisely why we exist - to provide time and space for women to sort through the mess and see that life can truly be possible – even when circumstances may be difficult or overwhelming.

No, we are not a housing facility (at this point). We are not an employment service. We are not professional counselors or mental health professionals. BUT – we ARE ambassadors for LIFE, lovers of people and bearers of TRUTH. Experience has taught us that God can use Anchor of Hope, in the midst of difficult and overwhelming situations, to bring hope and life into focus for those who walk through our doors.

## **Responding to the immediate**

In response to my friend's genuine concern for women and society as a whole, I was able to share the support

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services provided by Anchor of Hope to women who have chosen to carry to term. Including in these services are material support, mentoring, parenting classes, and a host of connections with other service agencies in Sheboygan County.

We do not minimize the difficult road we walk with our clients or the genuine needs they have. As a matter of fact, there are times we desire to do even more tangible acts of service for those we serve. A small gesture such as providing a grocery card for the client struggling to figure out how she is going to feed her family today while she's considering feeding one more mouth, could be adequate encouragement to help her choose life. We have witnessed the offer of a friend to watch a client's children be a pivotal act in that client's decision for life. It is most likely that a changed heart is the result of God using numerous individuals, circumstances, and situations to change that heart. Thank you for being on mission with us. Together we are allowed a front row seat to His work at saving lives in Sheboygan.

**VOLUNTEERS**  
are the **HEART** of  
Anchor of Hope!

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Each month about 75 individuals are working behind the scenes to serve the clients who walk through our doors. It's amazing to watch God use people with different gifts and finely-honed skills utilize those gifts for greater good at Anchor of Hope. Currently, we are in need of a few very specific areas. Those areas are:

- Word Press expert
- Video Editing
- Medical Sonographer to fill in
- Volunteer NP or PA for 4-6 hours per month

If you or someone you know has a heart for the unborn and skills in these areas, please contact Jacky at 920-452-4673.





## John Ploughman Chapter 19: Hints as to Thriving

Hard work is the grand secret of success. Nothing but rags and poverty can come of idleness. Elbow grease is the only stuff to make gold with. No sweat, no sweet. He who would have the crow's eggs must climb the tree. Every man must build up his own fortune nowadays. Shirt sleeves rolled up lead on to best broad-cloth; and he who is not ashamed of the apron will soon be able to do without it. "Diligence is the mother of good luck," as poor Richard says; but Idleness is the devil's bolster," as John Ploughman says.

Believe in traveling on step by step; don't expect to be rich in a jump.

Great greediness to reap—  
Helps not the money heap.

Slow and sure is better than fast and flimsy. Perseverance, by its daily gains, enriches a man far more than fits and starts of fortunate speculation. Little fishes are sweet. Every little helps, as the sow said when she snapped at a gnat. Every day a thread makes a skein in a year. Brick by brick, houses are built. We should creep before we walk, walk before we run, and run before we ride. In getting rich, the more haste the worse speed. Haste trips up its own heels. Hasty climbers have sudden falls.

It is bad beginning business without capital. It is hard marketing with empty pockets. We want a nest egg, for hens will lay where there are eggs already. It is true you must bake with the flour you have, but if the sack is empty, it might be quite as well not to set up for a bakery. Making bricks without straw is easy enough compared with making money when you have none to start with. You, young gentleman, stay as a

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## Ploughman Continued.....

journeyman a little longer till you have saved a few pounds. Fly when your wings have got feathers; but if you try it too soon, you will be like the young rook that broke its neck through trying to fly before it was fledged. Every minnow wants to be a whale, but it is prudent to be a little fish while you have but little water; when your pond becomes the sea, then swell as much as you like. Trading without capital is like building a house without bricks, making a fire without sticks, burning candles without wicks: it leads men into tricks, and lands them in a fix.

Don't give up a small business till you see that a large one will pay you better. Even crumbs are bread.

Better a poor horse tic an empty stall;  
Better half a loaf than none at all.

Better a little furniture than an empty house. In these hard times, he who can sit on a stone and feed himself had better not move. From bad to worse is poor improvement. A crust is hard fare, but none at all is harder. Don't jump out of the frying pan into the fire. Remember, many men have done well in very small shops. A little trade with profit is better than a great concern at a loss; a small fire that warms you is better than a large fire that burns you. A great deal of water can be got from a small pipe if the bucket is always there to catch it. Large hares may be caught in small woods. A sheep may get fat in a small meadow and starve in a great desert. He who undertakes too much succeeds but little. Two shops are like two stools a man comes to the ground between them. you may burst a bag by trying to fill it too full and ruin yourself by grasping at too much.

Make as few changes as you can; trees often transplanted bear little fruit. If you have difficulties in one place you will have them in another; if you move because it is damp in the valley, you may find it cold on the hill. Where; will the ass go that he will not have to work? Where can a cow live and not get milked? Where will you find land without stones or meat without bones? Everywhere on earth men must eat bread in the sweat of their faces. To fly from trouble, men must have eagles' wings. Alteration is not always improvement, as the pigeon said when she got out of the net and into the pie. There is a proper time for changing, and then mind you bestir yourself, for a sitting hen gets no barley. But do not be forever on the shift, for a rolling stone gathers no moss. tick-to-it is the conqueror. He who can wait long enough will win. This, that, and the other, anything, and everything, all put together make nothing in the end; but on one horse a man rides home in due season. In one place the seed grows; in one nest the bird hatches its eggs; in one oven the bread bakes; in one river the fish lives.

Do not be above your business. He who turns up his nose at his work quarrels with his bread and butter. He is a poor smith who is afraid of his own sparks; there's some discomfort in all trades except chimney sweeping. If sailors gave up going to sea because of the wet, if bakers left off baking because it is hot work, if plowmen would not plow because of the cold, or if tailors would not make our clothes for fear of pricking their fingers, what a pass we should come to! Nonsense, my fine fellow; there's no shame about any honest calling; don't be afraid of soiling your hands for there's plenty of soap to be had. All trades are good to good traders. A clever man can make money out of dirt. Lucifer matches pay well if you sell enough of them.

You cannot get honey if you are frightened of bees, nor sow corn if you are afraid of getting mud on your boots. Lackadaisical gentlemen had better emigrate to Fool's-land, where men get their living by wearing shiny boots and lavender gloves. When bars of iron melt under the south wind, when you can dig the fields with toothpicks, blow ships along with fans, manure the crops with lavender water, and grow plum cake in flower pots, then will be a fine time for dandies; but until the millennium comes, we shall have a deal to put up with and had better bear our present burdens than run helter-skelter where we shall find matters a great deal worse.

Plod is the word. Everyone must row with such oars as he has; and as he can't choose the wind, he must sail by such as God sends him. Patience and attention will get on in the long run. If the cat sits long enough at the hole, she will catch the mouse. Always-at-it grows good cabbage and lettuce where others grow thistles. I know as a plowman that it is up and down, up and down the field that plows the acres; there's no getting over the ground by a mile at a time. He who plods on the clods, rods on rods will turn of the sods while laziness

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nods.

Keep your weather eye open. Sleeping poultry are carried off by the fox. He who watches not catches not. Fools ask what's of the clock, but wise men know their time. Grind while the wind blows, or if not, do not blame providence. God sends every bird its food, but He does not throw it into the nest; He gives us our daily bread, but it is through our own labor. Take time by the forelock. Be up early and catch the worm. The morning hour carries gold in its mouth. He who drives last in the row gets all the dust in his eyes; rise early, and you will have a clear start for the day.

Never try dirty dodges to make money. It will never pay you to lick honey off thorns. An honest man will not make a dog of himself for the sake of getting a bone. It is hard to walk on the devil's ice; it is fine skating, but it ends in a heavy fall and worse. He must have a long spoon who would eat out of the same dish with Satan. Never ruin yourself for the sake of money: it is like drowning yourself in a well to get a drink of water. Take nothing in hand that may bring you repentance. Better walk barefoot than ride in a carriage to hell; better that the bird starve than be fattened for the spit. The mouse wins little by nibbling the cheese if it gets caught in the trap. Clean money or none—mark that—for gain badly got will be an everlasting loss.

A good article, full weight, and a fair price bring customers to the shop, but people do not recommended the shop where they are cheated. Cheats never thrive; or if they do, it must be in London where they catch chance customers enough to live by. The long-bow man may hit the mark sometimes, but a fair shot is the best. A rogue's purse is full of holes. He will have blisters on his feet who wears stolen shoes. He whose fingers are like snares will find other things stick to them besides silver. Steal eels, and they will turn to snakes. The more a fox robs, the sooner he will be hunted. If a rogue wants to make a good trade, he had better twin honest. If all you aim at is profit, still deal uprightly, for it is the most paying game.

Look most to your spending. No matter how much comes in, if more goes out, you will always be poor. The art is not in making money, but in keeping it; little expenses, like mice in a barn, when they are many, make great waste. Hair by hair, heads get bald; straw by straw, the thatch goes off the cottage; and drop by drop, the rain comes into the chamber. A barrel is soon empty if the tap leaks but a drop a minute. Chickens will be plucked feather by feather if the maid keeps at it. Small mites eat the cheese; little birds destroy a great deal of wheat. When you intend to save, begin with your mouth; there are many thieves down the red lane. The ale jug is a great waster. In all other things, keep within boundaries. In clothes, choose suitable and lasting stuff, not tawdry fineries. To be warm is the main thing; never mind the looks. Never stretch your legs further than your blankets will reach, or you will soon be cold. A fool may make money, but it needs a wise man to spend it. Remember it is easier to build two chimneys than to keep one going. If you give all to room and board, there is nothing left for the savings bank. Fare hard and work hard while you are young, and you have a chance of rest when you are old.

Never indulge in extravagance unless you want to make a short cut to the workhouse. Money has wings of its own, and if you find it another pair of wings, wonder not if it flies fast.

If our poor people could only see the amount of money which they melt away in drink, their hair would stand on end with fright. Why, they swallow rivers of beer, seas of porter, and great big lakes of spirits and other fire waters. We should all be clothed like gentlemen and live like fighting cocks if what is wasted on booze could be sensibly used. We would need to get up earlier in the morning to spend all our money, for we would find ourselves suddenly made quite rich, and all that through stopping the drip of the tap. At any rate, you young people who want to get on in the world must make a point of dropping your half-pints and settle in your spirits that no spirits shall ever settle you. Have your luxuries, if you must have them, after you have made your fortunes, but just now look after your bread and cheese.

Pray excuse me for spinning this long yarn, for as I pulled, it came. My talk seems like the Irishman's rope which he could not get into the ship because somebody had cut the end off. I only want to say, do not be greedy, for covetousness is always poor: still strive to get on, for poverty is no virtue, and to rise in the world is to a man's credit as well as his comfort. Earn all you cans save all you can, and then give all you can. Never try to save out of God's cause; such money will taint the rest. Giving to God is no loss; it is putting your substance into the best bank. Giving is true having, as the old gravestone said of the dead man, "What I spent I had, what I saved I lost, what I gave I have." The pockets of the poor are safe lockers, and it is always a good investment to lend to the Lord. John Ploughman wishes all young beginners long life and prosperity.



# July Birthdays

Zach Blasczyk 2nd  
Stephanie Arndt 2nd  
Amy Gross 6th  
Noah Friberg 7th  
Megan Boss 9th  
Paul Doro 15th  
Joel Moody 18th  
Brian Wingard 18th  
Carl Nyhof 19th



Daniel Doro 21st  
Phyllis Nyhof 24th  
Graham Ver Velde 25th  
Samantha Nyhof 26th  
Steven Doro 28th

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## *July Anniversaries*

Nick & Shaun Froh  
~July 1st, 2 years~

Tim & Tammy Voskuil  
~July 20th, 34 years~

Zach & Emile Blasczyk  
~July 23rd, 3 years~

Jim & Arenda Onnink  
~July 30th, 48 years~

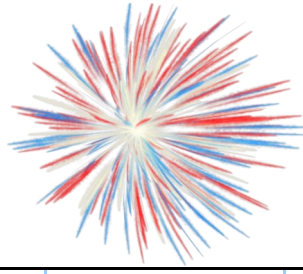




*Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ*

Grace OPC

# July 2019



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Men's Carnivore Fellowship Lunch	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Session Meeting	17	18	19 Timber Rattlers Game in Appleton	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

# Easy Peach Cobbler



## *Ingredients:*

- Two 15-ounce cans sliced peaches in syrup
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter
- 1 cup self-rising flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup milk
- Homemade Whipped Cream, recipe follows

## Homemade Whipped Cream:

- 2 cups whipping cream, chilled in the fridge
- 4 tablespoons sugar

## *Instructions:*

- Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Drain 1 can of peaches; reserve the syrup from the other. Place the butter in a 9- by 12-inch ovenproof baking dish. Heat the butter on the stove or in the oven until it's melted. In a medium bowl, mix the flour and sugar. Stir in the milk and the reserved syrup. Pour the batter over the melted butter in the baking dish. Arrange the peaches over the batter. Bake for 1 hour. The cobbler is done when the batter rises around the peaches and the crust is thick and golden brown. Serve warm with fresh whipped cream

## Homemade Whipped Cream:

- Chill a large metal mixing bowl and the wire beater attachment in the freezer for about 20 minutes. Pour the chilled cream and sugar into the cold mixing bowl and beat until it forms soft peaks, about 5 minutes. The mixture should hold its shape when dropped from a spoon. Don't overbeat or you'll have sweetened butter!

*“For He  
has satisfied  
the thirsty  
soul,  
and the  
hungry soul  
He has filled  
with what  
is good.”*



Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ

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Spurgeon

Corner

“When I passed by thee, I said unto thee, Live.”

Ezekiel 16:6

Saved one, consider gratefully this mandate of mercy. Note that this fiat of God is *majestic*. In our text, we perceive a sinner with nothing in him but sin, expecting nothing but wrath; but the eternal Lord passes by in his glory; he looks, he pauses, and he pronounces the solitary but royal word, “Live.” There speaks a God. Who but he could venture thus to deal with life and dispense it with a single syllable? Again, this fiat is *manifold*. When he saith “Live,” it includes many things. Here is judicial life. The sinner is ready to be condemned, but the mighty One saith, “Live,” and he rises pardoned and absolved. It is spiritual life. We knew not Jesus—our eyes could not see Christ, our ears could not hear his voice—Jehovah said “Live,” and we were quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins. Moreover, it includes glory-life, which is the perfection of spiritual life. “I said unto thee, Live:” and that word rolls on through all the years of time till death comes, and in the midst of the shadows of death, the Lord’s voice is still heard, “Live!” In the morning of the resurrection it is that self-same voice which is echoed by the arch-angel, “Live,” and as holy spirits rise to heaven to be blest forever in the glory of their God, it is in the power of this same word, “Live.” Note again, that it is an *irresistible* mandate. Saul of Tarsus is on the road to Damascus to arrest the saints of the living God. A voice is heard from heaven and a light is seen above the brightness of the sun, and Saul is crying out, “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?” This mandate is a mandate of *free grace*. When sinners are saved, it is only and solely because God *will* do it to magnify his free, unpurchased, unsought grace. Christians, see your position, debtors to grace; show your gratitude by earnest, Christlike lives, and as God has bidden you live, see to it that you live in earnest.

Evening, July 7th, C.H. Spurgeon

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## Front Page Concluded...

plan. They are designed for you! Second, to encourage others to join in with us. Inviting family and friends is always appropriate. Encouraging other church members to participate is also helpful. Third, be prepared to fully participate, and have a great time. Come with some expectation of joyful interaction. Then finally, be willing to engage on more spiritually substantial topics. Use this as an opportunity to minister to others, and to build them up in their faith!

Through these social fellowship events, we want our relationships to develop. We also want to see spiritual maturity growing in everyone

involved. Last, but not least, we want to glorify God as we joyfully relate to one another. That’s what we’re up to with Social Fellowship activities. Are you “all in?” I hope so!