



agape christian church

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Prescription for Spiritual Health "Popularity"

You don't have to be a golf lover to be aware of the popularity of Tiger Woods. Tiger has a tremendous following all over the world. He burst onto the golf scene winning three consecutive United States Amateur golf championships. He played some college golf at Stanford, but soon moved on to the professional ranks and immediately was an impact player. He won tournaments and major championships with double-digit margins and established himself as the man to beat.

When Tiger was two years old he was on the Mike Douglas show demonstrating his extraordinary putting



skills. At five years old he was in *Golf Digest* and the TV show *That's Incredible*. He became the number one golfer in the world after only 42 weeks as a professional. (Trivia – The last player to be number one before Tiger was David Duvall.)

At any golf event featuring Tiger Woods a majority of ticket holders will say they're there to see Tiger. The swell of the crowd around him is

overwhelming. A blimp's eye view shows a mass of humanity wherever he goes. Tiger's popularity is so great his first endorsement deal with Nike was worth \$40 million and with Titleist was \$20 million.

I suppose he can credit Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus for creating an atmosphere where golfers draw such fans. Still, Tiger's play and personality make him one of the most recognized people in the world. It is difficult today to get anywhere near Tiger Woods. The crowds are just too large.

Two millennia ago Jesus experienced just such a ground swell of popularity. Mostly working class people,



Elders

Craig Bierl
 Jamie Cornwell
 Dennis Duschek
 Gary Hilton
 Tim Ransom
 Hugh Tonagel

laborers, farmers, fishermen, servants, even soldiers were drawn to Jesus. People who were hurting, whether physically, emotionally, or spiritually, found comfort in His presence. They surrounded Him wherever He went. It was difficult to get near Him because of the large crowds. People pressed upon Him hoping for a glimpse or maybe to touch His robe. If they could just connect with Jesus their afflictions and anxieties would be washed away. And Jesus didn't disappoint.

The civil and religious leaders misunderstood His purpose and feared that He would try to topple the Roman authority.

Cont. on pg. 2

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October

Let us know if we have missed your birthday or anniversary. Just drop a note to the church office or e-mail Jen Hayes.

2	Joe Tuholski
3	Alexis Catron Luc Schwinkendorf
4	Wayne Tamlin
6	Bryan Collins Matthew Winter
7	Phil Janik Kevin & Claudia Wood
8	Sandy Tamlin Josh Cornwell Paz Garcia, 3rd George & Jean bond

9	Michael Bell
10	Wes Spain
11	John Mitchell Elijah Ragland Caleb Blair Isaak Ritchie
12	Reed McDonald
13	Carl & Marilyn Savich
14	Carol Loveless
18	Don Crites

19	Dan Day
20	Jim Walker
21	Jessa Crites
24	Bill Gangwer Lee Wuthrich
25	Jen Hayes Andy Hayes
27	Nancy Hilton
28	Deborah Winter
29	Betty Brown Denessa Hamilton
31	Sierra Sue Jesch

Prescription for Spiritual Health—"Popularity" Cont. from pg. 1

They became suspicious of His followers. The hypocritical religious leaders, jealous of His popularity, fanned the flames of religious hatred and managed to get several different "blocs" to converge on Him resulting in His murder. They thought that this would put an end to this whole affair.

They were wrong. Jesus rose from the grave, demonstrating His divinity and making His followers stronger than they were before. People continued to be drawn to Jesus through the preaching of the Word of God and His love demonstrated by His disciples. Even today people find reason to come to Jesus. His following continues to grow, not because of

the political influence of Christian spokesmen or powerful churches, but because of the love of Christ seen in His people.

Agape Christian Church is part of that crowd of followers. We seek to demonstrate His love in our communities. People in our culture try to marginalize Jesus' popularity by creating alternate and false depictions of Him. We can't stop them by arguing with them, nor should we. Our call is to love people the way Jesus did. He will cause His popularity to grow.

I encourage you to make it your number one priority to love like Jesus loves. When people see the love of Christ in us, they will be drawn to Him. Jesus will always

be popular. Isn't it great to be a "fan" of this popular man?

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Thanks to Mikel Rice

01-26-2004



October-At-A-Glance

1	9:15am — Mom's Bible Study — ACC 1:00pm —Thur. Aftn Ladies' Study — Hawkins' hm 6:15pm — Thursday PM Ladies' Study — ACC 6:30pm — Walk thru the Bible
3	E.P.I.C. Worship Service @ 6pm
4	8:00am Sunday School (adults) 9:00am Worship Service 9:30am Sunday School (children—adults) 10:30am Worship Service 6:00pm — Tonagel Bible Study 6:00pm — Young Adult Bible Study—ACC 6:30pm — Maturing Christian Bible Study
5	TREAD @ 6pm — ACC Adult Choir Practice @ 6pm—Nelson hm
6	7:00pm — High School Bible Study — Spain's hm
8	9:15am — Mom's Bible Study — ACC 1:00pm —Thur. Aftn Ladies' Study — Hawkins' hm 6:15pm — Thursday PM Ladies' Study — ACC 6:30pm — Walk thru the Bible
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26	TREAD @ 6pm — ACC Adult Choir Practice @ 6pm—Nelson hm
27	7:00pm — High School Bible Study — Spain's hm
29	9:15am — Mom's Bible Study — ACC 1:00pm —Thur. Aftn Ladies' Study — Hawkins' hm 6:15pm — Thursday PM Ladies' Study — ACC 6:30pm — Walk thru the Bible
31	Trunk or Treat 5pm — 7pm — ACC E.P.I.C. Worship Service @ 6pm

ATTENTION ALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS AND PARENTS!



What: Junior Church Christmas Program

When: Sunday EVENING, December 13
@ 6:30pm

Where: Agape Christian Church Sanctuary

Who: ALL CHILDREN, from Kindergarten thru 5th grade, are welcome to participate.

How: Practices will be every Sunday, during the 10:30 service. CD's containing songs will be sent home and speaking parts will be announced soon. Practice attendance is necessary!



IMPORTANT NOTE!

COLD AND FLU SEASON IS ALMOST HERE!

In preparation for the upcoming season, we just want to remind our parents of our policies concerning illnesses. We love our kids here at Agape and wish to keep everyone safe and healthy. So, for the health and safety of all of our children and teachers, please do not bring your child if s/he has had any of the following symptoms in the past 24 hours:

Diarrhea (illness, food or medicine induced)

Vomiting

Fever (100 or over)

Undiagnosed rash

Open sores

Runny nose (anything but clear)

Discharge in and around the eye(s)

Thank you for your help in keeping all of Agape's kids healthy!

A Letter from our EPIC/TREAD minister, Wes Spain



Life in the ministry is crazy. God is really doing some cool stuff here at our church. During this week I was blessed enough to start up the young adult Bible study again. (We are meeting Sunday nights at 6pm at the church if you are interested) Which is always be fun hanging out with people whom I share a lot in common with, we are going to study 1st and 2nd Timothy for about a month and then move onto Dave Ramsey's total money make over study.

Later in the week we started our High school Bible study and I am also excited about the kind of community we are building within our youth group as well.

I was paid a great compliment the other day by one of our youth group

kids. We were talking about our youth group and he was comparing it to the other youth group he attends. The high school student told me that there is no youth group around that studies the Bible like we do at TREAD. He also said that he loves the small groups we have and how it's easy to get to know the leaders for a one on one relationship. He said that he has grown in his relationship with God a lot and he often thinks about being in the ministry.

This is not the only student who has said this. I have spoken with many other students who love our Bible study and really enjoy our Spiritual aspect at TREAD. If we are known for anything around town I would love for us to be known for our great Spiritual environment. I have thought about this all week and each time I thank God, and I ask Him for more of His leadership.

What really makes me think is that we picked this verse years ago to be our youth group verse. Pay attention as

to how it ends. Then think about what that student said to me.

Rom 12:1-2

1 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice — the kind he will accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask? 2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is.

TREAD has always sought after God rather than entertaining the kids while at youth group, and that is what makes us different.

Have a great month of October

In Christ

Wes Spain,

Of TREAD and EPIC ministries