

October 12, 2014
Moving Forward

Roots

This *Roots* will be a little different from the ones that came before it. Today, I am giving you a preview into what I am thinking of doing here at *Tree of Life* in the near future.

One of the things that I have noticed about our wonderful congregation is that we have many military ties, many police force ties and several fire department ties. Because of this, I think that one of the ways we can move forward and reach out into God's wonderful world is by involving ourselves more deeply in ministry to, for and with these types of folks. These people help to defend, serve and secure our country in a unique way, one in which they see and experience many difficult situations. With those situations comes pain, confusion and a score of many other emotions and reactions.

These men and women volunteered to take these difficult tasks and situations on themselves so that others wouldn't have to deal with them. They provide us with the safety and security we have, so that we can minister to the world. I feel that it is very important for us to make sure that these defenders and protectors are also cared for spiritually. They have given much for our freedom to worship Jesus and receive his life giving Word. All that being said, I think it would be a good thing for us to focus some of our ministry efforts in their direction.

I would also like to give you a hint as to some other things that I have in the works.

First, I am looking into a "Faith and Fitness" study. And as October is stewardship month in the LC – MS, I think that it is important that we be good stewards of all the gifts God has given us. Our bodies are included in those gifts. Nothing is solidified with this bible and faith study, but it is something that I am working on, so look forward to it.

I also have a couple bible studies works. The first is "The Great Deceiver," which was put out by LHM's (Lutheran Hour Ministry's) Men's Network. The other is a study that will focus on stewardship. Both of these topics are sensitive in their own ways, but they are both very important. More information on these studies will come out soon.

I wanted to give you all an update on the things I have in the works for a couple of reasons. First, I wanted to get my ideas to you to see what you thought. Second, it gives me a little accountability to myself.

That is where I am currently. If you have any more suggestions for these and other future studies or programs for your church please let me know. I look forward to growing in Christ and serving him with you in the near future. God's peace.

Pastor Curt Jh

