

# Calvary Connection

November 2017

## Cleaning Ministry

What a big, beautiful building we have in which to worship and fellowship! So big, so many rooms, so much that needs to be cleaned! No worries!

Kathy Rutter has created a schedule that places volunteers in teams of five, assigning each team one segment of the building. The time commitment is only once a month for 1½ hours!



Examples of an area that your team may be assigned to clean are hallways, Sunday School rooms, or the Sanctuary.

Why not get your aerobic exercise while serving God in this ministry – with no gym fees involved! You could also serve as a family, or with a group of friends.

To volunteer, call Kathy at (585) 738-1355.

## What the Transgender Debate Means for the Church

In February, the White House officially cancelled President Obama's executive order regarding transgenderism in public schools. This is a good decision that corrects outrageous and coercive directives. Children should not be turned into pawns of culture war experimentation. At the same time, the cultural conversation on gender identity issues requires more than good policy. It demands a gospel-centered response from the church.

Ultimately, the transgender question is about more than just sex. It's about what it means to be human. Are we created, as both the Hebrew Scriptures and Jesus put it, "male and female," from the beginning; or are these categories random and self-willed? Do our bodies, and our sexes, represent something of who we were designed to be, and thus impose limits on our ability to recreate ourselves?

There are good reasons to put boys and girls in different bathrooms and locker rooms and sometimes sports teams, reasons that don't question the dignity of people, but uphold it. Every human being knows that there are important, and necessary, differences between men and women. Without such recognition, women are harmed and men are coarsened.

Moreover, the move here toward separating self-identity from biological reality will hardly stop at "gender." If anything, there's much more of a case to be made that one can 'feel' that they are a different age than what their birth certificate would show. If all that this means is "You're only as old as you feel," it's something else entirely as it applies to mandated military service, the drinking age or the age of consent.

*Children should not be turned into pawns of culture war experimentation.*

So how should we as Christians respond? First of all, we should never mock or belittle those suffering gender identity disorders. These are our neighbors to be respected and served, not freaks to be despised. They feel alienated from their identities as men or women and are seeking a solution to that in dress, surgery or hormone therapy. In a fallen universe, all of us are alienated, in some way, from who we were designed to be. That alienation reveals itself in different ways in different people.

Christian congregations that seek to be faithful to the gospel must teach that our maleness and femaleness points us to an even deeper reality and unity with Christ and the church. A rejection of the goodness of those creational realities is a revolt against God's lordship, and against the picture of the gospel that God had embedded in the creation.

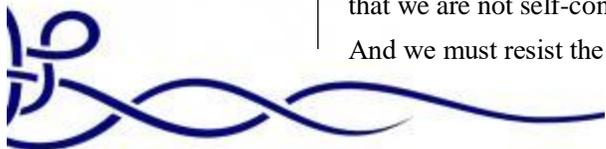
*If we do not love our mission field, we will have nothing to say to it.*

But this also means that we will love and be patient with those who feel alienated from their created identities. We must recognize that some in our churches will face a long road of learning what it means to live as God

created them to be, as male or female. That sort of long, and sometimes painful, obedience is part of what Jesus said would be true of every believer: *the bearing of a cross*.

We must also bear witness to the goodness of what it means to live as creatures, not as self-defining gods and goddesses. God created us as human, and within humanity - as male and female (Gen. 1:27). We are all sinners, so we chafe against having ourselves defined by a Creator, and not by ourselves or our ideologies. Our nakedness shames us because our physical difference reminds us that we are not self-contained. Man needs woman, and woman needs man.

And we must resist the temptation to buy into the Sexual Revolution's narrative. *(continued)*



~ Cover story, cont. ~

The danger is that we assume that the Sexual Revolution will always be triumphant, progressing upward and onward. If Christians see ourselves as people who are “losing” a culture - rather than people who have been sent on a mission to a culture, we will be outraged and hopeless instead of compassionate and convictional. If we do not love our mission field, we will have nothing to say to it.

We Christians believe that all of us are sinners, and that none of us are freaks. We conclude that all of us are called to repentance, and part of what repentance means is to receive the gender with which God created us, even when that’s difficult. We must affirm that God loves all persons, and that the gospel is good news for repentant prodigal sons and daughters, including for those who have trouble figuring out which is which. *Russell Moore, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention*

## Potter’s Field Ministries

In 1992, Michael & Pam Rozell presented Potter’s Field Ministries for the first time at a women’s retreat, with Michael creating a clay pot on a potter’s wheel while Pam, a Christian concert artist, sang original songs. A potter since the age of fourteen, Michael found that Jesus was calling him to use this talent he had been graciously given to further God’s kingdom in a special way.

One of the ways that Potter's Field Ministries is transforming lives around the world is through Potter’s Field Kids programs. In each PFK location (Cambodia, Kenya, Uganda, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Native Americans in Montana), they work closely with the local pastors and churches, evaluating the most effective way of sharing the love of God with the children in that community.

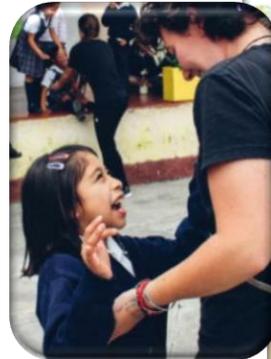
The goal of PFK is to provide spiritual and physical nourishment to each child by reaching out to them with the truth of God’s Word, nutrition, education, and the hope of Christ shown through loving vessels. Every Potter’s Field Kids program is creatively tailored to touch each child in a way that is personally and culturally relevant.

These programs are a safe, Christ-centered environment providing opportunities for homework assistance, snacks and meals, physical activities, the teaching of God's Word, and one-on-one discipleship. In some locations, additional academic education is given as well. Through PFK, not only have many children give their lives to the Lord, but many of their families have been encouraged to attend the church fellowships, too.

PFK Guatemala has also been given the incredible gift of being able to teach English in seven different schools in the local public school system – using the Bible as curriculum! This opportunity came about through the awareness and open doors created by a medical mission trip hosted at the Potter’s Field Center in 2014. In attendance at this clinic was the superintendent of the public schools, at the time when the government had just cut the funding for English in the school system.



*Our young adults we've supported: Katie Coon, Lydia Sawler de Ramos, Mike Buduson*



*Check out our “new” website:*  
[ccwebster.org](http://ccwebster.org)

## Enriching Your Bible Vocabulary

**gainsay** – to say or speak against. *Therefore, settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to gainsay or resist. (Luke 21: 14, 15)*

**gall** – bitterness; a bitter substance. *They gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted it, He would not drink. (Matt. 27:34)*

**Gilead, balm of** – medicinal oil extracted from a tree in the region of Gilead. *Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wound of my people? (Jer. 8:22)*

**glean** - to gather leftover grain (or other produce) after a harvest. *And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not completely reap the corners of your field when you reap, neither shall you gather any gleaning of your harvest: you shall leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I am the LORD your God. (Lev. 23:22)*

**Gog** – an individual, people or land representing the enemies of God; often mentioned with Magog. *And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. (Rev. 20:7,8)*