

February 27th, 2020

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## **TORTURED FOR CHRIST**

A FREE movie night  
for the whole family!

## **DON'T QUIT**

A word of encouragement from Pastor Chad

## **STEPPING UP**

A new study with the Men's Breakfast

TheFriends.church



**WHERE  
FRIENDS  
ARE FAMILY**





TORTURED  
*for*  
CHRIST



# **A FREE *movie night for the whole family!***

Fourteen Years In Communist Prison Could Not Break His Faith!

The Voice of the Martyrs presents the inspiring movie Tortured for Christ, a cinematic retelling of the testimony of VOM founder Pastor Richard Wurmbrand as written in his international bestseller Tortured for Christ. Filmed entirely in Romania, including inside one of the prisons where Pastor Wurmbrand endured torture and solitary confinement, this powerful film will challenge every viewer to consider what it means to truly sacrifice for following Jesus Christ.

**This Saturday, February 29th, at 6:00pm, at the church. A separate movie for children will be show simultaneously in the children's building.**

To watch the trailer visit [TorturedForChrist.com](http://TorturedForChrist.com)

# DON'T QUIT

When it comes to love, the Bible gives us a wonderful definition of what love is and how love acts. In **1 John 4:8**, we find that “God is love.” And from **1 Corinthians 13:7** we discover that, “Love always protects, always trusts, always perseveres.” In other words, love never quits!

From the original Greek language of the New Testament, the term persevere paints a powerful word picture of two men on a battlefield. Fearing that when the fighting starts, they may flee and leave the other by himself, they forge a commitment and make a vow to stay close vowing “no man left behind.” In doing so, they actually tie a rope from one to the other to keep from running away. Maybe that’s where we get the idea of “tying the knot!” It’s says, “I’m committed to you—no matter what...!”

- That’s a love that never leaves us nor forsakes us!
- That’s a love that never fails!
- That’s unconditional love!
- That’s God’s love!
- Agapé!

You may be thinking, “That all sounds great for a Sunday sermon.” “Sure, That’s God’s promise when we all get to heaven.” “Save it for the wedding ceremony, preacher.” The real question is, “How do we live in and live out this kind of unconditional love in our daily lives? In our marriages? With our families and friends. At work, at school or at play. Where do we find the power to love like Jesus?”

Do you recall when Jesus was asked by His disciples, “What is the greatest commandment?” His answer gave priority to two key issues relating to love. The second, is what we’ve already outlined...”Loving others as you love yourself.” The first Jesus said is to ... “Love God. Love Him with all your heart, all your

soul, all your mind and all your strength.”

Yet, too often, we try to accomplish the second command without fulfilling the first. Only when we first LOVE GOD can we find the power to satisfy the second and start “loving others as Christ first loved us.” So before you quit—before you give up, how about giving in to God’s great love for you?

- **Romans 5:8** says, “That while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

- **John 3:16** states, “God so loved the world...”

That’s the key that turns the engine, that gives the power, that helps us love others the way that God loves. The key is God’s love for you and me—not our efforts to stir up love for others. Because not until you let God love you for who you really are, can you truly love others as God first loved you.

Scripture reminds us that, “We love because He first loved us. If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: ‘Whoever loves God must also love his brother.’”

**-1 John 4:19-21**

So when it comes to loving others, DON’T QUIT! To give up on others is to give up on God, His grace and mercy that so lovingly pursued and promises to never give up on you, me or this world that He was willing to die for!

This week, as we close out the month and turn the calendar, let’s open our hearts to Christ’s love and in return, “Love God and love others”—as He first loved us!

# COMING SOON!

## A new Sunday Morning Study

What does it take to fuel a faith that burns bright, no matter what? At different times in our spiritual journey, we may discover that we've somehow developed apathy toward the things of God. Instead of being fueled by spiritual passion, our faith seems to be running on autopilot- or maybe sputtering as we seek excuses to avoid spiritual engagement.

Through an upcoming six-week study authored by Kay Arthur, your eyes will be opened to the distractions that can undermine your interest in the things of God, and you'll truly discover practical and meaningful steps you can take to ignite a fire that will propel you toward a deeper, more significant faith. Topic titles include Igniting Your Passion for God's Word, for Prayer, for God's Worship and for Sharing the Gospel. Please join us for this convincing study beginning on Sunday, March 15.





**“Love must be *sincere*.  
Hate what is evil; cling to  
what is *good*. Be devoted  
to one another in *love*.  
*Honor* one another above  
yourselves.”**

ROMANS 12:9-10



# MEN'S BREAKFAST

This Saturday, March 29th at 9am  
Michael's Place in North Royalton

## STEPPING UP

A CALL TO COURAGEOUS MANHOOD

— DENNIS RAINEY —

Join us, as we dig deeper into what it means to step up and live a courageous life with Stepping Up: A Call to Courageous Manhood video series. Based on his book by the same title, Dennis Rainey, along with Matt Chandler, Bill Bennett, Tony Dungy and others unpack what biblical manhood looks like and what it means to be a godly, courageous man in today's world.

Come and respond to God's call that every man become courageous leaders in their own lives, marriages, churches, and communities. Men of every age will be equipped and empowered to be true heroes of the faith in their families and places of influence. (You can check out the video portion of our lesson on Right Now Media: "Stepping Up" Session 2.)

# UPCOMING



## MOVIE NIGHT

Join us this Saturday, February 29th, at 6:00pm, at the church, for a powerful film about the founder of The Voice of the Martyrs.

A separate movie for children will be show simultaneously in the children's building.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's Breakfast will meet this Saturday, February 29th, (and on the last Saturday of each month) at Michael's Place restaurant in North Royalton.

All men are invited to join us for a morning of "Bros, Bible, and Bacon." See you there!



## MIDWEEK MINISTRIES

Our Wednesday night Bible study is in a study through the book of John. Come find life in the name of Jesus as you are drawn back to the essential truths of our faith.

Midweek Ministries are on Wednesday evenings from 6:45-8:15pm.







