

## Praying & Fasting for Boldness!



Pastor Wayne and Sue Ondersma worshipping God with His people at The PIER 2/7/2021

**Acts 4:31** *And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. (ESV)*

**Matthew 6:16-18** *“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup> But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (ESV)*

**Joel 2:12** *“Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; (ESV)*

**Isaiah 58:6** *“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? (ESV)*

**Mark 9:29** *And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.” (ESV)*

**Acts 4:31 → Praying & Fasting for Boldness!**  
**Second Tuesday of the Month 6:30 – 7:30AM — Starting Tuesday, April 13, 2021**  
**The PIER Church 4669 South Division Wyoming, Michigan 49548**

**We know the devil does Not Want You to Join Us!**

**Is the Holy Spirit Calling You to Pray and Fast for Boldness and See what He will do?  
Or could the Holy Spirit Calling You to Start a Gathering like this in Your Community?**

# A Journey upward to Insignificance!

Written by Pastor Wayne A. Andersma  
The PIER Church

As many of us know the journey empowered by faith in Christ is a Journey to lose the begging significance of humanity and embrace the position of insignificance before the true cause of significance our Maker and Creator God. Well for some that is a more difficult journey than others. My story starts on a cold November day 1959. I was born to a 19-year-old mother who had no ability to raise her 3-year-old daughter and less ability to raise another that was coming into the world in the usual way. So on that November night she made the greatest decision for this little insignificant child, she handed me over to be adopted and I would never see her again.

A wonderful couple, Jacob and Francis Andersma, who were unable to have their own children, raised me. I was nurtured under the best of care and yet the feelings of insignificance seemed to run through my veins. I was raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan and went through the G.R. Christian School system. I never felt like I fit in. Our family was not rich. My dad worked hard to provide the tuition, and I must admit, I don't think I appreciated it because of the great disconnect I experienced.

Looking for significance can both be difficult and abusive in a world that is climbing to get to the top. I was bullied in school, especially in the younger years. Besides being adopted, I was also pigeon toed which today is taken care of in the infant stage, but not in my case. I wore black rubber braces with beautiful black square shoes for two years to correct my legs and fellow students thought that it would be fun to push around an already one who didn't fit in. I can remember the first time I saw the movie *Forest Gump* and in the scene of the boys teasing him, he started running and the hardware fell off his legs. I cried because that is what every little boy wished would happen.

In my fifth grade year I was looking hard for my significance and found what I thought would give that to me as I was exposed to pornography. It became an 18-year addiction in my life that would end by God's own hand. But because of His amazing mercy I met a young lady by the name of Sue at 12 years old. We spent two weeks talking on the phone, going to a carnival, having a coke at the local pharmacy and doing flips in her front yard. But just like most junior high romances it was over as soon as it started. But this relationship would come back and visit me six years later.

The remaining of my junior high and high school years were tumultuous at best. Living in insignificance, influenced by my addiction, and living hidden was abusive to my heart. I was losing ground in the quest for real life and I found myself seeking all kinds of ways to fill the emptiness.

In the midst of all the turmoil my God never left me nor forsook me. He pursued me with the tenaciousness of a hound dog on the trail of a rabbit. I can point to specific times in my teenage years that He spoke to me and reminded me of His love for me.

By my graduation year (1978) I had decided that I was going to marry a young lady from South Christian, but God had other plans. He reintroduced me to my two week long, twelve-year-old friend. We reunited at a store where I worked, and we saw each other again at the pharmacy where we had a coke. A few months later we had our first date. Three years later we stood in front of the minister and said, "I do!"

My wife, now for almost 40 years, actually introduced me to the idea of ministry. She was going to work with the junior high group and asked me if I wanted to help. This led to thirty-five years of youth ministry for me. I was a volunteer at Home Acres Reformed church for fourteen years before I went to school for formal training. It was interesting what led up to the schooling.



I had mention earlier that my addiction to “porn” was for eighteen years. By God’s mercy my addiction never crossed over into the youth work. God kept the youth and me safe. But I was still acting out on my addiction. In November of 1988 I was arrested for “Miss Bodily Conduct” or what is known as “Peeping Tom.” My addiction had escalated to new heights and was out of control. God said, “Enough,” and I faced the reality of my sin by facing a misdemeanor.

It was during this time that a friend of mine by the name of Dave, challenged me to be in an accountability relationship with him. He challenged me to memorize scripture verses and to be open and honest about my activities. It was tough to open up the wounds that I had kept a tight seal on. But in the midst of Dave’s discipleship, I was beginning to see that I could be honest before him and he wouldn’t judge me. The theme verse of our friendship was Romans 8:1, “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Dave lived that out loud in my presence and I began to see my heart change under his discipleship.

It was Christmas of 1988, (a month after my arrest) that Dave said to me, “Wayne, the youth need more exposure as the leaders that they are. We are going to ask the church to allow us to run a service and you are going to preach.” I told him he was crazy. But in May, 1989, we hosted our first of many Youth Sundays and I preached my first message. This action started me on a journey that would lead me to where I am today.

Dave had made a prediction that someday I would be a youth leader. In fact, I wrote it in one of my Bibles that I still have today. Dave and I talked and prayed about developing a community center in the Wyoming area and I even wrote up a report on the possibility calling it, “A Neighborhood Soda Shop.” But in 1990 David Parker went home to be with the Lord.

It was four years later that the Lord moved me to go to school at Reformed Bible College for a degree in Evangelism, Youth and Education. During my time at school, God orchestrated a call to a church in Holland, Michigan called North Holland Reformed Church. I served there for nine years as their Youth

Director. God opened many doors to speak into the lives of those who were marginalized and deemed as insignificant. I seemed to have a special place for them in my heart.

I resigned from my position nine years later and ended up in a farmhouse in Hudsonville, Michigan, not knowing where God was going to lead me. Without any direction or a job, I ended up working for a trash company. It was there that it seemed like I wrestled against Satan himself, who was constantly saying as I stood on top of the dump heaps: "This is where your life has ended, God has no more use for you." I don't know if you can relate to this time in my life, but it was one of the most difficult times I can recall of wrestling with darkness.

About six months after I started with the trash company, I received a call from a ministry called, The DOCK. It was the president of the board calling to ask if I would be willing to talk about taking the directorship of the ministry. The DOCK is a drop in center that ministers to students, primarily in the Kelloggsville Public School District. It is an after school program that gives middle and high school students a place that they can come to that is a safe environment for them.



The DOCK and The PIER building is directly across the street from Kelloggsville Middle School.



In our Wyoming community we have about 46 percent single parents, which means that we have almost half of our population coming home to an empty house every day. The DOCK not only provided a safe place for students to come and hang with their friends, it also provided 70 adults from several different denominations that would come together to love on young people. Adult volunteers was an important role because many of our students didn't have adults in their lives that knew how to parent. Many didn't even care to parent. We had an event one time where a student had an altercation with another student during the day in school. During DOCK time the father of the student came with the boy's older brother to beat on the boy right at our center. We intervened and the event didn't happen, but it gives you the idea of what was going on during our tenure at The DOCK.

Identity was and still is an incredible issue. Young boys and girls who didn't have a clue who they were and had no center at home would cling to the opposite sex, or the gay lifestyle. Some even began the journey into the transvestite world to find their purpose. We had a young lady who taped her breasts down and put on a wig to be identified as a young boy. We fought for her life by not being willing to identify her by her new name. The term today that would speak against what we did is called, "Dead Naming" which refers to using their Birth Certificate name in a conversation. Today they are trying to get

it to be a crime to do that. But we fought for her true identity and today this young lady has returned to who she was created to be.

During my time at The DOCK I received opportunities to speak at many different churches and was invited to preach at some. We put on “DOCK Celebration Services” in which we invited those who supported The DOCK to come to a time of worship. The students would put on skits, sing songs, and play instruments. Once we even had an atheist attempt to sing “Amazing Grace.” She stood up front and just couldn’t get the words out of her mouth. I came up with my guitar and she was able to sing the song. Today we are still friends and I pray that someday she will come to a saving knowledge of the One who brought true grace to earth.



Pastor Wayne was excited to announce the good news that Pastor Steven DeVries is now officially part of the staff team as the Pastor of Discipleship. Pastor Steven’s wife Emily sings with the Praise Team.



During the nine years at The DOCK I only saw a couple of young people attend churches. With over six denominations represented by volunteers one would think that volunteers would invite students to go to church with them. I had Reformed, CRC, Baptist, Methodist, Lutheran, and even some Pentecostals that were volunteers, yet I did not see the invitation going out. I began to understand that either people didn’t believe the students would fit into their church or that their church wouldn’t accept urban students that we were used to loving. It disturbed me greatly!

In 2012 we had worked on the building for two years to open up the whole building to ministry. We invited the Mayor of Wyoming to come out to a Celebration Service. We had the Mayor cut the ribbon to open up the whole building as the first community center in the city of Wyoming’s history.

It was during this time that God began to move in my wife’s heart and my heart. I had been ordained as a Commission Pastor in the Reformed Church of America. I had traveled around preaching at mostly CRC churches, which was interesting to me. God began to speak to my wife and me about the idea of planting a church with the vision of reaching back into the lives of thousands of students we had the privilege to love and to bring the Gospel into their young adult lives.

Being a Reformed Pastor, I contacted Randy in 2012. Randy was the regional leader for the RCA and he said to me, “Wayne your name has been on my list for a while to call about planting a church. But I don’t

think you should plant as a Reformed Pastor, you should be a CRC Pastor, because The DOCK's support is primarily from the CRC."

I contacted David of Community CRC and Ben of the RCA and God started the ball rolling. I remember one meeting in which a gentleman asked questions that set my heart on fire. He said, "We have planted two or three churches in this same neighborhood and all have failed, why will you succeed?" I said, "Because I have spent nine years building relationships in this community and I believe God will begin to harvest that work." He then asked the telling question of me, "If the CRC doesn't give you money will you still go ahead with the plant?" My response was, "Absolutely I really don't have a choice, God is calling and I must answer!"

Soon after that my wife Sue and I began writing down twenty-four names of people we thought would make good leaders to become part of a leadership team. We didn't reach out to them, we just prayed and asked God to draw His choices to us. None of the people we initially thought would be the right leaders responded. To our surprise, the responses came from people we really didn't know.

Let me share one story of God moving leaders into place. Bob and Carol were former members of the supporting church, Immanuel CRC. They had been at the church for over thirty-five years and the last fourteen years they knew God was bringing something new in their lives, but they didn't know what. They had tried to go to other churches, but each effort fell flat. Then about two weeks after Sue and I started to pray for leaders, we received an interesting call. Carol, who we had never had any social interaction with, called out of the blue and asked us if we would like to come over for dinner. We accepted and had a great dinner with them.

After dinner Sue and I looked at Bob and Carol and said, "Do you want to know why you invited us over for dinner?" They looked puzzled. But curiosity overcame protectiveness and they asked what I meant by that. We proceeded to tell them about the church plant and that we had been praying specifically for them. They were shocked.

A week later I received a call from Bob and he told me he had just finished reading the book, *The 10-Second Rule: Following Jesus Made Simple*. The premise is when God calls you, answer within 10 seconds by saying yes. Bob and Carol took a week to call back but both now laugh because they knew right away God was calling them. Both of them are very wise people. Actually Bob is my leader and I submit to his faith and wisdom for direction concerning The PIER.

We started The PIER (People Investing in Eternal Riches: Word of God / Soul of a human our mission!) on October 3, 2012 with 13 people. Our DNA was set in stone as each of us gave our testimony of how God saved us from a life that was separated from Him and how he drew each of us to Himself.

We worked as a team to expand our mission. We developed 5 Core Values of the church that are important to the DNA of the PIER. Dependence on God. Witnessing. Leadership. Reconciliation. Community. We developed a discipleship vision: *People walking side by side proclaiming the glory of God by word and deed, in such a contagious manner that others long to acquire the same Spirit.*

The CRC and RCA had combined their efforts that year and developed a training called, *Thrive*, that Sue and I attended with another couple. They gave us some great tools to help us put into process a strategic plan of how to start a church. The plan gave us direction and pushed us to keep climbing the hill of church planting, believing what we all knew we had never done before, was achievable. So we pressed on as a team.



There were many satanic attacks against us both from within and without. We had a couple that started the journey with us but found out that the wife was having an affair on the husband. We quickly developed a plan of reconciliation. The wife seemed sincere about staying the course. But after we implemented a course of accountability, she had no intention of changing and they left the Core Team.

On the front edge of starting worship and being brought into the CRC as a Commissioned Pastor, Sue and I had a series of events happen that were almost comical. I officiated at my son's wedding in October of 2013. The horse and buggy rental hit our car in the parking lot. A week later my dad was in the hospital, and I received a call that my mom was going in because of breathing problems. When Sue came to pick me up, I fell into a construction hole and broke my knee cap, ending up in the hospital next to my mom. After my surgery on December 20, my mother went home to be with Jesus. On December 25, my Dad followed her into glory. A week later my Dad's brother died. I was in all three funerals in a wheel chair or walker. God has an amazing sense of humor to teach a pastor about the pain of others to build his compassion.

On Easter Sunday, 2014, the PIER held its first service. I was brought into the CRC in May. The PIER today is approaching its seventh year of worship and has gone through many changes. God has sustained us through people's threats, the COVID Pandemic, and demonic attack during our services.



We have had people come and go who could not get the vision of discipleship at The PIER. We have seen some amazing opportunities to love on hurting people. We have seen prostitutes come to Jesus. Even former students who attended The DOCK in middle school, are now worshipping Jesus together.

Thank you for reading my story. I want to share with you another story that will help you understand a conviction God has placed on my heart.

It started in 2016, when Sue and I found out about the lifestyle of our oldest daughter. She had been married for fifteen years, and unknown to us she was involved in multiple affairs and living a double standard life. As the story unfolded, she realized her family was finding out the truth she started the journey to divorce our son-in-law.

On one particular day I was shown the darkness that was leading my daughter. I sat with her and read from Psalm 37 which has some very specific commands for believers in it: "Do not fret...Trust in the LORD...Take delight in the LORD...Commit your way to the LORD...and Be still before the LORD." I asked her which was the one that she was struggling with and she answered honestly, "Trust." I agreed with her and said, "Honey this is a faith issue. Let's start walking down the path of restoration." She jumped out of the chair and walked over to a half wall, hid behind it and said, "It is not time for this!"

Little did I know it was the influence of a demon and he was protecting my daughter from the power of the enemy (The Holy Spirit). Without biblical knowledge and training, I didn't know what to do next, so I left. I am sure the demon was very happy, because he felt the presence of the Spirit in me and I think it scared him.

The divorce went through. They have now been divorced for three years. My family had been meeting to pray together throughout the divorce process. Soon after the divorce, I called them to a different level of impact. I asked my family to fast and pray together for my daughter, one day a month. We have been doing that for a couple of years now. Each time we pray, something new happens to my daughter. God is revealing to our family that we are making an impact on her life through the obedience of the Word. Mark 9 tells us there are some things you will not do without "prayer and fasting."

Last fall, God began to convict me of the fact that I have been doing this for my biological family, but what about my spiritual family at The PIER. In November I started praying and fasting one day a month for The PIER. At the exact same time one of my former student's two and a half year old daughter died in her sleep. As Sue and I were getting the information about what happened, the mother (a former student) was thinking about asking me to do the funeral. I ended up doing the funeral and we are now walking together in a growing honest relationship. I pray someday it will lead her to a real personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

I share this story with you because I am beginning to hear similar stories coming from other pastors. The demonic world seems to have power and confidence to now come right into churches and cause all kinds of havoc. I believe it is time for pastors to stand up and realize all the burn-out, all the division in the church, and all the tension between leaders is caused by a dark force that is becoming bolder and bolder each day. COVID-19 has given the enemy a growing ground that is giving him traction to destroy the church, the very thing God's Word says will not happen. It is said that 30 percent of former worshippers will never return to the church. Churches will be closing down right and left because of persecution and simple abandonment. There is an attack on the church of Jesus Christ that has never been seen before in our life time. It is time to wake up!

My vision is simple. I am calling pastors, lay-people, leaders, and believers who have a heart for the church and the lost, to begin to battle on their knees. I am looking for men and women who will commit to fast and pray one day a month for the next twelve months. The fast will be for 24 hours and the gathered prayer time will only be one hour.

My proposal is to meet at The DOCK Community Center at 4669 S. Division Ave. Wyoming, MI 49548 at 6:30am on the second Tuesday of the month for twelve months. The fast will begin after supper the Monday before and will end at supper on Tuesday. We have to remember the disciples were unable to

cast out the demon. Jesus told them exactly why in Mark 9:29, "He replied, 'This kind can come out only by prayer and fasting.'"



It does take a rocket scientist to understand that by disobedience, the church has been losing battles even though our Lord and Savior has already won the war. It is time for us to obey our God, fast to deny ourselves in preparation, get on our knees together for the Gospel, and start taking ground back from the enemy.

I believe the time is now. I believe America doesn't have a political problem, it has a spiritual problem. The church of Jesus Christ is the only entity on earth that has the solution. We are in touch with the Pfizer and Moderna of the spiritual world. Jesus Christ is the cure. Fasting and prayer are the methods of the application of the True Vaccine that will cure the real spiritual problem today. God is calling his people to distribute the cure to the world. It starts with you and me.

I am praying for a few committed people who will set aside their own agendas, and take up the mantle of the agenda for the rescue of the church and the salvation of the souls of the lost.

As I end this plea, I realize there might be some people who read this and say, "Well this is all nice, but I feel that maybe you sir are driven by emotion and a bit of fanaticism." In answer to that let me finish with a story about prayer in my life. I was fifteen years old, in the midst of addiction, and an identity crisis, when I met God for the first time. I loved football and played anytime I could. It was a Sunday afternoon in the fall of my fifteenth year. I had been playing football with some friends. I returned home later than I should have, and my parents had left for church.

As I stood in the doorway of my house my thought was, "I can miss church once, no big deal." But as I stood in that doorway, a thought came to me that wasn't from me: "Why do you go to church? Is it because you want to make your parents happy? Is it because you want to look good? Or is it because

there is something between you and Me? In answer to that question I put on my silk shirt, bellbottom pants, one and a half inch heeled shoes, and ran a half mile to church.

Ten years later, I was telling this story in front of a group that my dad attended. As I finished my story, my father said to me, "Wayne do you want to hear the rest of the story?" He said, "I remember that day as if it was yesterday. Your mother and I had left for church and you were not with us. Three years earlier, your sister ran away from home. And now my son also is not worshiping with us." He said, "I remember putting my head into my hands and crying out these words: 'God don't let Wayne go, don't let him go!' The moment I finished my prayer, you sat down next to me."

Friends, we must never forget what our God told us in Jeremiah 33:3, "Call to me, and I will answer you, I will tell you great and mysterious things that you do not know." The reality of not obeying God is the cause of our defeat today. But if we will again pick up the mantel of prayer and fasting, I believe with all my heart, we will experience victory in the Lord like we haven't seen in one hundred years in America.



My name is Wayne Ondersma.

I am nobody but a follower of Jesus, insignificant in the eyes of man, but loved and treasured by my Savior and Lord.

Will you join me for a year?

**I hope and pray you will contact me:**

**Email: [waoyouth@gmail.com](mailto:waoyouth@gmail.com)**

**Call: 616-345-0907**

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When Wayne shared this with me in his office — the Holy Spirit immediately prompted me to say yes!

I made a one year commitment to praying and fasting for boldness with Pastor Wayne.

We would love to have you join us or start one yourself!

Pastor John Smith



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