

## Wide Open (Part #1)

### “It’s Hard To Wake Up!”

**2 Corinthians 6:11-13** (The Message) “Dear, dear Corinthians, I can’t tell you how much I long for you to enter this wide-open, spacious life. We didn’t fence you in. The smallness you feel comes from within you. Your lives aren’t small, but you’re living them in a small way. I’m speaking as plainly as I can and with great affection. Open up your lives. Live openly and expansively!”

**Awareness. Awe. Adventure.**

### It’s Hard To Wake Up Because...

**\*We Are H\_\_\_\_\_ Sleepers!**  
(and really like being asleep!)

“When you were dead in your sins...”—**Colossians 2:13**

**Ezekiel 37:1-10**

The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” I said, “Sovereign Lord, you alone know.” <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!’” <sup>5</sup>This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. <sup>6</sup>I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.” <sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” <sup>10</sup>So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.”

### It’s Hard To Wake Up Because...

**\*We Can’t Wake O\_\_\_\_\_ Up!**  
(and others can’t wake us up either!)

“When you were dead in your sins..., **God made you alive with Christ.** He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.”—**Colossians 2:13-14**

**John 3:1-9**

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” <sup>4</sup>“How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. <sup>7</sup>You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup>“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked. <sup>10</sup>“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things?”

### It’s Hard To Wake Up Because...

**\*Often God S\_\_\_\_\_ Us To Wake Us!**  
(and we don’t like to be shaken!)

“But because of his great love for us, God...made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions... And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms...”—**Ephesians 2:4-6**



# JOIN US TODAY

Sunday, April 23rd, 2017

Opening  
GREAT ARE YOU LORD

Welcome  
AS IT IS (IN HEAVEN)  
SINKING DEEP

Prayer  
Offering  
TRUST IN YOU

Message  
**IT'S HARD TO WAKE UP!**  
Pastor Dean Ward  
Special Music by Kim & Abby Louis  
DRY BONES

W I D E O P E N

AWARENESS AWE ADVENTURE

PART 1 OF OUR CURRENT SERMON SERIES

# GIVING BACK TO GOD

Giving back to God, cheerfully and sacrificially, is part of our worship. It's our way of putting God first in our finances and supporting the mission of The River throughout the year. The combined totals for both The River New Kensington and The River New Heights are listed.

	\$7,150.00 Needed Weekly	Attendance
March 26th	\$6,128.16	282
April 2nd	\$8,836.23	260
April 9th	\$5,527.75	326
April 16th	\$10,577.00	468

# UPCOMING EVENTS

This Week		Next Week	
Sunday April 23	Services 9:30am & 11:15am	Sunday April 30	Services 9:30am & 11:15am
Wednesday April 26	The River's Edge Youth Group 6-8pm	Wednesday May 3	The River's Edge Youth Group 6-8pm
Thursday April 27	MOPS 9:30-11:30am Bible Study 6:30-8pm	Thursday May 4	Bible Study 6:30-8pm

MAY 13  
**REFRAME INTENSIVE DAY**  
WITH STEVE GARBNER - LOCATION & DETAILS TO COME

MAY 21  
**12TH ANNUAL CAR SHOW**  
@ THE RIVER NEW KENSINGTON

**STAY CONNECTED!** CHECK OUT ALL OF OUR EVENTS

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**ALMOST TIME FOR WOH @ THE RIVER! HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?**

- 1 Provide local service projects for the campers. Pray about who you might know that could really use some extra help.
- 2 Apply for the paid position for a Site Leader, who would work a few hours a week connecting with the youth leaders who run Week of Hope Pittsburgh between June 18 and August 4.
- 3 Volunteer in hospitality to assist the youth leaders in preparing meals for the campers and leading the campers in maintaining their living spaces. 110 volunteers needed, July 9-14 and ONE needed July 23-28. Volunteers must be 21 and over.

Contact Nicky for further details: [nicky@therivernewken.com](mailto:nicky@therivernewken.com) or 724.537.4837

**group WEEK OF HOPE**  
Community Service

**EVERY OTHER MONDAY 9PM PHILIPPANS**  
BEGINNING FEB 13TH

JOIN US **f LIVE** **skype**

[www.facebook.com/therivernewheights](http://www.facebook.com/therivernewheights)

**RIVER'S EDGE YOUTH GROUP**

Open to youth grades 7-12  
Youth Pastor Brian Baker 724.594.7394

Every 2nd and 4th Sunday, the youth are encouraged to attend the 11:15 service. After the offering song, the youth will go into the Youth Room for their lesson.

Wednesdays 6-8pm