

FEBRUARY 2012

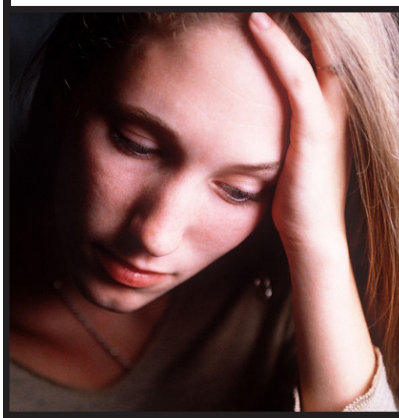
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 -6:30-7:45pm... The Hub in the Forum (Jr. and Sr. High)	2	3	4
5 -8:45am... Overflow open -9:30am...NFCU in the Forum -Life Groups in various homes	6	7	8 -6:30-7:45pm... The Hub in the Forum (Jr. and Sr. High)	9	10	11
12 -8:45am... Overflow open -9:30am...NFCU in the Forum -6pm...The Expression in the Forum	13 -6pm...LEAD committee meeting in the Forum	14	15 -6:30-7:45pm... The Hub in the Forum (Jr. and Sr. High)	16	17 WINTER	18
19 -8:45am... Overflow open -9:30am...NFCU in the Forum RETREAT	20	21	22 -6:30-7:45pm... The Hub in the Forum (Jr. and Sr. High)	23	24	25
26 -8:45am... Overflow open -9:30am...NFCU in the Forum -Life Groups in various homes	27	28	29 -6:30-7:45pm... The Hub in the Forum (Jr. and Sr. High)			



DEALING WITH THE PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL WINTERS OF LIFE...

Life is full of painful moments. We experience sadness and sorrow on many different levels. It can be caused by our own bad choices, the choices of those around us, or physical pain to ourselves or someone we love. In the midst of these times we have a few choices of how to respond. We can choose to simply let the pain overwhelm us, we can try and fix it on our own, we can get angry at the world or God, or we can choose to turn to God for comfort, strength, and peace.

During 'the HUB', in January, we have been talking about these trying times and looking at people in the



Bible who went through painful situations and how they responded. Job suffered incredible physical suffering even though he was a righteous man. He could have given up on God and cursed him, as his wife instructed him to do, but he instead he

chose to continue praising God. He continued to trust that God knew best and was worthy of being praised. When we deal with physical suffering in our lives, either in our own body or someone we love dearly, we have to come to the place where we ask, "Do I trust God?" That's what it really comes down to. We don't always know why we or those we love have to experience intense times of pain, but we move past our understanding and stand on the fact that we know

God is good and that He has a plan for our lives. That isn't an easy place to stand, but it is a necessary place to find ourselves during the course of our lives.

Another story we looked at was that of Joseph in Genesis. Joseph was emotionally injured through no fault of his own many times in his life. He was



betrayed, forgotten, mocked, lied about, and sold into slavery by his brothers. He definitely had some emotional baggage heaped upon him by others.

This can be true in our lives as well. Parents get divorced, a husband or wife becomes distant, a friend betrays our trust...we all incur emotional pain. It is in these times we must ask ourselves, "Can I give _____ to God?" Whatever has injured us, even if it is things we've brought on ourselves, God wants to lighten our burden and take those things from us.

So how will we respond in times that are tough? Will we trust God? Will we give those pains to Him?

Have you already been through some winter seasons in your life? Sharing these moments with your kids can be extremely impacting in their lives! My mom's story of God's incredible grace and redemption made a huge impact on my life...and your story can have the same impact on your kids, but only if you are open to share. -Brian Loeber



THE ART OF THE

LONG SCOPE

by: Doni Otremba

From Pastor Nate: Last September, the NFC Student Ministries team gained a new member: Doni Otremba. We felt it might be nice for you to get to know her a little bit, and what her role is in supporting the Student Ministries team, our teens, and you! She can be reached at 466.3549 or at dotremba@nfcnaz.org

Born to Bruce and Bette Moore, I grew up in this church. I graduated from Skyview High School, earned a degree in Public Communication and Theater from NNU, and a masters degree in Organizational Communication and Leadership from Marist College. In 2006, I married my best buddy, Paul Otremba, and this June, we will welcome our first child to our little family.

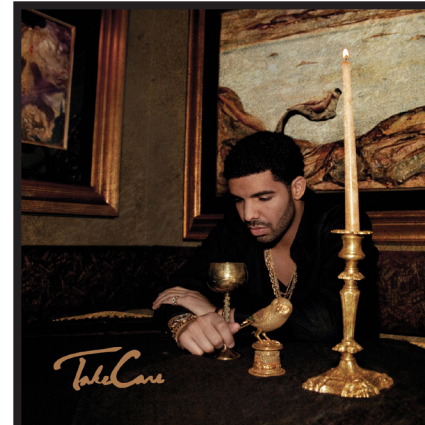
Anyone who knows me knows I've been involved in drama/theater for my entire life. I was a part of Music Theatre of Idaho for many years, traveled for NNU, participated in mostly all of NNU's plays and musicals during my four years there, and even was the Drama Director for the Spring Musical, Honk, in 2004. The Lord is moving me to use these passions and talents more with our faith community, which is scary and exciting all at the same time!



For the last five years, I taught leadership, sales, technical, and customer services classes at DIRECTV. What a pleasure it was to be able to subtly bring a Christian perspective to these extremely secular classes of people ranging in age from 18 – to upper 60's. During my time there, I was so fortunate to have learned volumes about business processes, relationship building, and coaching and developing. This last summer, the Lord directed me to leave my beloved career at DIRECTV and take a part-time position at the church, working for Pastors Nate and Brian. My title at the church is "Generational Ministries Administrative Director". The Generational Ministries aspect of the title really is what it sounds like: we cover several generations: 7th grade through High school, Young Adults, and

Parents of any of the before mentioned. So, what does the Administrative Director part mean? Well, I help our Pastors plan, coordinate, structure, and communicate events and ministries to those generations that we serve. Essentially, I work with Nate and Brian to help turn their vision for ministry into a reality.

I am so blessed to have been chosen to be a part of this ever-expanding ministry with two of the most passionate and genuine guys I've ever met. My goals for my position are pretty simple: to serve our Lord and Savior by supporting our pastors, our ministries, our teens, young adults, and their families. If there is ever any way I can help support you, whether it's answering a question, setting up a meeting with Nate or Brian, or anything else, please just give me a call or send me an email. I look forward to getting to know you as we continue pressing on in our journey of faith, adventure, love, and laughter.



ARTIST: Drake
 ALBUM: *Take Care*
 GENRE: Rap/Hip-Hop
 RELEASED: Nov. 15, 2011
 ACCOLADES: Debuted at No. 1 with first-week sales of 631,000 units
 ADVICE: Avoid It!

MUSIC REVIEW

If you've ever been tempted to believe that all the money and fame in the world would satisfy you, Drake's second album, *Take Care*, might help disabuse you of that notion.

Oh, sure, it includes pounds of profane swagger and braggadocio about endless sex and Maybachs and marijuana and being the greatest and having more money than 1,000 normal people put together. Unlike most rappers who riff on those clichéd themes, however, Drake's not afraid to (occasionally) admit that none of it really seems to be getting the job done for him in terms of lasting satisfaction.

That's not to say this album should serve as schooling for the bling-minded among us.

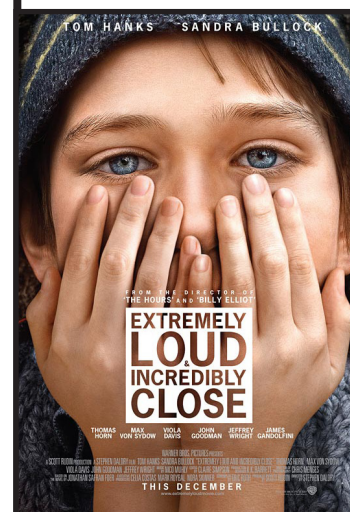
On the title track, a man and a woman (guest singer Rihanna) pledge to try to overcome their mutual baggage, and care for each other. A verse on "Look What You've Done" seems to credit a relative for being a good influence and believing in Drake after his biological father abandoned the family.

Unfortunately, even though Drake sometimes understands what the "wrong thing to do" looks like, he more often intentionally seeks it out. He peppers his tracks with references to strip clubs, casual sex, oral sex and sex with fans. And he laces those references with the f-word. He derisively describes women as "b-ches" and hoes to be used and abused.

It's so much sex, in fact, that Drake almost admits he's bored with it all. On "Marvin's Room," he sings, "After a while, they all seem the same/I've had sex four times this week, I'll explain/Having a hard time adjusting to fame." Still, not finding satisfaction in sex isn't stopping Drake from having it.

A liner note photo shows an explicitly rendered statue of a nude woman. References to drunkenness, drunk driving, smoking marijuana, gambling, committing adultery and evading taxes offer more evidence of Drake's scrambled moral compass. "Headlines" spends most of its time detailing exactly what kind of a G.O.A.T. Drake is—as in Greatest Of All Time.

In his more self-aware moments, a few of Drake's songs illustrate how you can gorge yourself on every possible pleasure known to humankind (or most of them, anyway), yet still not find much meaning in it. That's the tack Solomon took in the Old Testament. But very unlike the wisest man who ever lived, there's little if any evidence here that Drake's occasional admissions of inner emptiness are compelling him to live any differently. It's certainly not prompting him to sing about anything else.



MOVIE: *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close*
 STARRING: Tom Hanks & Sandra Bullock
 RATED: PG-13
 ADVICE: See it with the family & talk about it after...

We all felt 9/11. We lost confidence. We lost innocence. We lost our sense of security. But few of us lost our fathers.

Eight-year-old New Yorker Oskar Schell is a naturalist, a pacifist, a martial artist, an oxymoronist. Most importantly, he's an expeditionist, embarking on incredibly elaborate scavenger hunts designed by his father. In the fall of 2001, Oskar had been searching for proof of New York City's sixth borough—a supposed sliver of an island that one day simply floated away.

And then comes 9/11 and Oskar's father vanishes in the smoke. What remains is two degrees removed: an old camera, a sport coat, and an answering machine with six precious messages made that day—bearing his father's voice, his emotion, his concern, his love, frozen in that moment. Night after night, Oskar plays them over, one by one.

In this world of story, Oskar (and we) slowly come to grips with some hard realities: That things don't always add up. That they don't always make sense. That hurt and loss happen and we don't know why ... and yet we must find the strength and the courage to move on.

Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close is a powerful and poignant film. The emotions unfurled can be wrenching, and I think as a parent—like many of the people Oskar meets—you wish you could walk into the movie and try to help take the pain away. You can't, of course, so you end up thinking more deeply about your own family. Your own losses. Your own challenges. Your own determination. Your own hidden hope.

