



ABUNDANT LIFE TRES DIAS

June 2013 Newsletter
www.rockfordaltd.webs.com

ANNUAL PICNIC / BUSINESS MEETING
See Page 2 for information – THIS SATURDAY!!

From your Communication Chair:

You remember that rhyme from childhood – “Sticks and stones will break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” I think it’s time we re-wrote that to be: *Sticks and stones just break my bones, but words can really hurt me.* Very few of us make it to adulthood without some instances of hurtful words in our past; sadly, some of us still deal with vicious words in our present. As a young mother, one day I was singing to my pre-school son, and for some reason he said “Mommy, don’t sing.” Certain family members adopted the phrase, and meanly teased me with it repeatedly, for years, convincing me that my singing voice was unpleasant. Thankfully, God brought healing and victory over that curse/criticism, and I now sing with abandon, and it gives me great joy. (My Abba LOVES my voice; He gave it to me. Interestingly, the scripture Jean Lisk selected for the women’s weekend is one I quote often; see page 5.) I have been blessed to not be the target of many unkind words, but the ones I HAVE incurred tend to linger long, and rarely lose their sting.



You know there are several verses about speaking blessings and curses, but for me, it boils down to Micah 6:8 - “*And what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*” To love kindness - what a great way to guard our tongue. May I encourage you to speak kindness to someone today? Read Pastor Ryan’s column on page 3. Speaking kindly to folks – in the elevator, at the grocery checkout, the library, etc. – might be one little thing God uses for big things in His kingdom. If we SAY “God loves you and so do I,” shouldn’t we LIVE that?

.....Anita Rogers <><

Annual Business Meeting and Picnic

Come one, come all to our ALTD Picnic and Annual Business Meeting on Saturday, June 15. This year we are doing something a little different...but we think it will be a TON of fun!

Two churches from the north side of Rockford are hosting "PraiseFest," a day of live worship music featuring eight different Christian artists/bands. This free event is open to the public. Music will go throughout the day starting at 11:00 am through 6:30 pm. They will also have various things to do for the whole family: a bounce castle, face painting, balloons, a dunk tank, Pickles the Clown, a puppet show, and other games. Many of our ALTD community are already involved in this event and so, in support of it, we decided that ALTD would come alongside the PraiseFest committee to provide their Food Court. While our picnic is a great time of fellowship and worship, this is also a great opportunity to show the love of Christ to the general public, too! What a way to show apostolic action...IN ACTION!

Here are the details you need to know:

- Lunch will be served from 12:00 – 1:30 pm. We will start grilling hamburgers and hot dogs at 11:00 am.
- Meat (hamburgers and hot dogs) and beverages (water, lemonade, kool-aid) provided
- ALTD Community is to bring picnic-friendly side dishes and desserts (please bring 2 to 3 times what you would normally bring, to help with the additional people in attendance)
- Food should arrive before 11:45 am so we can open the Food Court at noon. We are planning on having limited plugs for crock-pots and an ice table to keep cold dishes cold. Come early and enjoy the music and catch up with others!! PLEASE BRING SERVING UTENSILS!!
- We will have a donation box at the Food Court to go toward offsetting the cost of the meat provided (hamburgers & hot dogs) and also toward putting on ALTD weekends. Bring \$ to donate toward cost of food/ALTD fund for weekends.
- Bring lawn chairs and/or blankets to picnic on the lawn.
- Eight different Christian music artists/bands will be playing from 11:00 am – 6:30 pm. These artists/bands include our own Tania Nicholson, JC & the Encouragers, and Wade Lammon.
- Parking will be available along Searles Avenue and also in designated areas in the vicinity. If you need handicap parking, the church lot will be reserved for those vehicles.
- IMPORTANT NOTE FOR FAMILIES WITH KIDS:** this is a PUBLIC event and will have many things for you and your children to do together – bounce castle (make sure to bring socks!), face painting, puppet show, games, dunk tank, and other games. PLEASE, supervise your children as you would if you were at a county fair as it just won't be ALTD community present. Enjoy the day with them!
- At 2:00 pm, we will gather as a community in the church building (enter through south doors) to meet for our annual business meeting. We will conduct the business of our community, vote in new members of Secretariat, and also have communion.

We are in need of a few items/people. We've provided a list below of the needs and if you wish to help out:

- Banquet tables (would need them Friday afternoon/evening) – whatever we don't use for the Food Court, we will set up for people to put lawn chairs around to eat at
- Volunteers in the various areas:
 - Set-up (Friday afternoon/evening) – come and help set up the Food Court area
 - Grillers (take a 30-minute shift to grill hamburgers/hot dogs starting at 11:00 am on Saturday)
 - Clean-up / Tear down – stay after the business meeting to clean up/tear down the Food Court area
- If you have any kids-size socks you could donate to the bounce house for kids who don't have them to use – bring them along, we'll have a box for them
- Dunk tank volunteers – I told the PraiseFest coordinator I'd put out a request for anyone who loves to do this! If it's a warm day, it might feel nice to get dipped in some water! ☺

If you can help with any of these items/needs, e-mail us at deb@smitsphotography.com or call us at 815-703-7294! Thanks!

We look forward to seeing you there, reconnecting, and having a great time! DeColores!
Chad & Deb Smits, Post-Weekend Chair

Send prayer requests, information, etc., to tresdiascommunication@gmail.com

A tent-maker pastor..... By Ryan Bensheimer

As many of you know I am a tent-making pastor... The Family Life pastor at the River and by day a wedding Photographer. I started several years ago praying strategically for every wedding couple before and after each meeting and during the wedding that God would open the doors to move in my work and that he may be glorified. I was intentional about doing small things that impact them and show that I was a man of God and hopefully open the door for someone who was searching...

So here are some ways that God has used me since I took on this philosophy...

- I have been asked to pray for the dinner on several occasions
- I have been asked to counsel non-Christians who realized they needed counseling before their marriage, especially if the officiant wasn't offering any
- I have heard "Ryan is a Christian" and that leads to "what would you do"... during the day, usually in fun and joking but it almost always plants a seed
- I have ended up meeting with many of the grooms after the wedding to talk about God in their life and leading their home
- Several of the couples have ended up coming to our church, or told someone about our church who has since come
- Several of the couples have come to JESUS! Praise God!
- Many times at a wedding I have prayed for people for healing
- Many times I been asked to pray for different things
- And on a few occasions, after a couple divorces... one of them calls needing to talk to someone, and remembers My Jesus

My point is this. Had I just woke up and gone to work I doubt many of the above circumstances would have unfolded... MAYBE? But maybe NOT! But it was opening my mind to letting God use me how he would. If the opportunity arises, listen to the pleading of the spirit and PRAY that you will act in accordance with His prodding. The great thing here is that this isn't of us! In fact he says, GET OUT OF THE WAY, or stop trying to do it yourself and just Let GOD MOVE through and in you. The great part of this is the pressure is off! It isn't about you, it is about just being obedient and talking about giving God the Glory for who He is.

I Corinthians 5:20 says "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."

Let's tear this apart... [there]for Christ . . . in Christ's stead--The Greek translates "on Christ's behalf." God wants to work through us as if it were Him Himself

Then he says... beseech . . . pray--rather, "entreat [plead with you] . . . beseech." We think of Ambassadors differently than what this verse is saying... such "beseeching" is uncommon in the case of "ambassadors," as we know them today who generally stand on their dignity, It is ACTION!!! God is PLEADING with us to get ourselves out of the way and let the Spirit move us!

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Be ye reconciled to God--English Version here inserts "ye," which is not in the original, and which gives the wrong impression as we interpret with our AMERICAN thinking, as if it were emphatic thus: God is reconciled to you, be ye reconciled to God. But that isn't really the thinking here... The Greek expresses rather, God was the RECONCILER in Christ . . . let this reconciliation then have its designed effect. Be reconciled to God, that is, let God reconcile you to Himself... The power is there... nothing of us, just move over and Let the Spirit do what God will do through you.

So my challenge to you is to present yourself as an ambassador to give Him Glory by getting out of the way and being open to how God may use one little thing to do BIG things for His kingdom.



ALTD Annual Golf Outing !!

Mark your calendars: July 20, 2013. Our committee has put together all the information you need, in the form of a video clip on our website: <http://rockfordaltd.webs.com/golfclassic.htm>

(Check it out - for us non-golfers, the music is quite appropriate.... grin.) **Let's fill the course and make it a huge success!**

.....please remember to lift up Ron Winkler and Jean Lisk, our rector/rectora for Weekend 29. They are assembling their teams, prayer warriors are being recruited, and plans are being made. All the training dates and locations are on our ALTD Calendar (see the website; link on page 1).

.....on a related subject, it is not too early to start your palanca for the Fall weekend! And it is also time to be praying for those you wish to invite as candidates. Wouldn't it be lovely if we had a full slate of 30 candidates for both the men's and women's weekends, *before* the application deadline?

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O God, you have been my help,
and in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy.

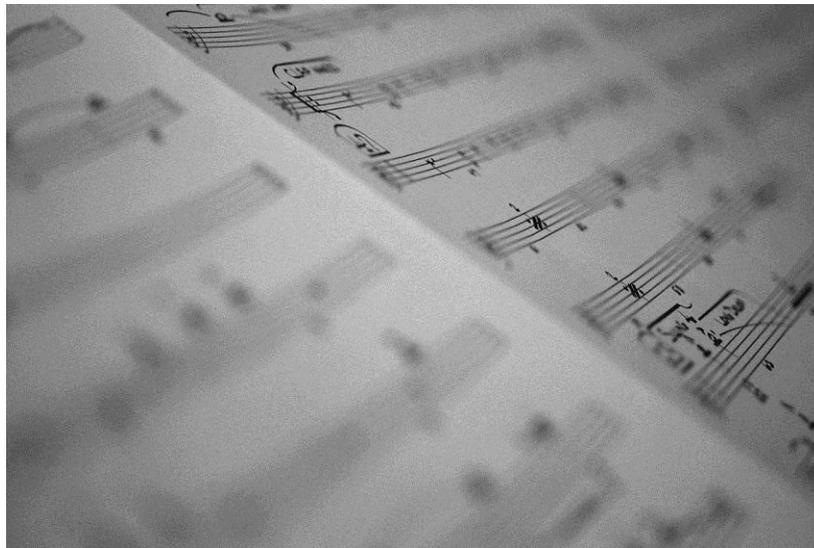
Psalm 63:7 (NRSV)

This is the verse God has laid on my heart to be the theme for my devotions this year, so I thought it only appropriate that I share it with all as our theme for the weekend. As I shared it with my reunion group we decided it tells our whole story: God guides and directs us on our journey, He shields us in sunny times and in gray times, and our response is to praise Him with our whole being.

Tanya and I are walking closely with Him as we grow His team for Weekend #29. We ask for your prayers as we walk this path. We also ask your help in growing the candidate list for the weekend. Now is the time to plant the seeds with those who God has laid on your heart to bring to a weekend. Gently, prayerfully, nurture those seeds over the summer, and in September ask God to help you get them to sign on the dotted line.

Weekend #29 will only come together if we all rely on God to choose the right team and candidates. Tanya and I are relying on your prayers to help us do that. God will then pull together the perfect community for His Weekend #29. Then on November 14 we will all raise our praises and Sing for Joy!

Jean Lisk
Rectora, Weekend #29



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