



ABUNDANT LIFE TRES DIAS

August 2013 Newsletter
www.rockfordaltd.webs.com

Next Secuela: Friday, September 6, at Grace Lutheran Church, 343 Grand Avenue, Loves Park. See link on the “Secuela” page on our website, AND our Facebook page.

From your Communication Chair:

Have you dealt with disappointment lately? I have. This spring, my daughter’s family and I decided to combine households – my house was listed for sale, their house was readied for tenants, and we found the perfect new house that would accommodate all six of us. What’s that quote? “Man plans, and God laughs”?? Yup, we did and He did. Maybe. I would rather think, though, that my Abba smiled sadly, shook His head, and said “oh, beloved daughter, that’s not my plan for you...I have something SO much better in mind.” My house didn’t sell, and numerous applications to lenders were rejected. The tenants couldn’t wait, so they found other housing, and our “dream house” sold to someone else. {{sigh}}



One close relationship seems to be declining, and another (hoped-for) one never “took hold.” I am sure I am not the only one among us disappointed in some area of our lives. But God is not finished yet, with you or with me. (I love that phrase: “But God...”) In Psalm 73:25, 26 it says “*Whom have I in heaven but Thee? And besides Thee, I desire nothing on earth. My heart and my flesh may fail, but God is the strength of my life and my portion forever.*” My portion.....I cannot begin to imagine how vast that blessing is. I am His, and He is mine, and besides Him, I desire nothing on earth. No new house? No husband? Ahh, I am still blessed beyond measure, for *God is my portion*, and His love – and His plan - is so much better than anything I could imagine. What disappointment can YOU turn over to God’s sovereignty and majesty?

.....Anita Rogers <><

“My summer vaCation”

Remember your teacher assigning you a composition with this title? We did that with our Secretariat members, and want to share some of their responses with you:



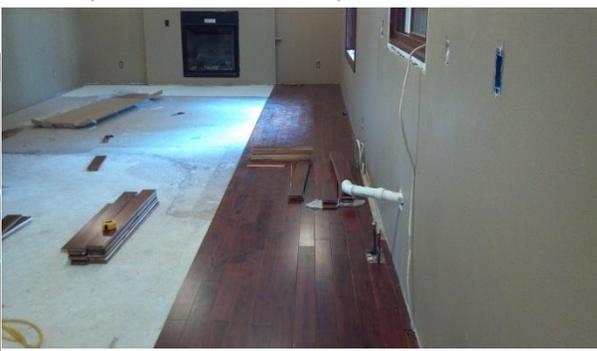
We traveled by car to Wyoming and Montana!! The beauty is so large out there, is just amazing to me. We rented ATVs for an unguided trail ride. Had a few bumps (literally) along the way, but was good at the end. Glad to be on a level surface after all that mountain climbing. I had never been that high up before, and not be in a plane. We visited Corey and Sarah Waskow in Montana over the 4th and had a wonderful time catching up. Just a wonderful vacation!! (Todd & Vicki Hunt)

- On my summer "vacation" I put together 95 new ALTD team manuals! (Karen Weis)

- I demoed our kitchen: ripped up 1,000 square feet of carpeting and linoleum and replaced it with hardwood flooring. Now it's time to put the kitchen back together but I'm out of vacation time! (Kevin Busker)



“After”



“During”

- Our daughter McKenna is spending the summer with us before heading back to UW-Madison for her sophomore year this fall; she was able to “man” a tradeshow booth with me for three days at McCormick Place in Chicago – what a blast! We had a Memorial Service for Kathy's father, Frank, who passed away in March; a young couple from The River had their wedding ceremony in our back yard; we led a "Love & Respect" Couples Small Group all summer. We had our 16th annual "Fireworks on the Lake" with long-time friends, the Baughmans. The 2-day Global Leadership Summit (see Pastor Ryan's article) as enlightening and inspiring! More to come: The River's Baptism Night (35 adults getting baptized in Geneva Lake); Snappers Game with Kenny Howard & Steve Weber; "The River on the Lake" Cruise; moving Kenna back to Madison; Delaney coming home from Virginia; our 25th wedding anniversary! (Michael Dustman)



Leadership, Biblically speaking..... By Ryan Bensheimer

This year I had the joy of seeing 46 of our River Leaders attend the Willowcreek Global Leadership summit August 8-9. And it was awesome! We heard from Colin Powell, Andy Stanley, Bill Hybels, Dr. Henry Cloud, Joseph Grenny, Liz Wiseman, and many others that I feel guilty for not mentioning their names here! But the one that I will remember the most was from a guy I had never heard of before...

Chris Brown has served as a Senior Pastor and Teaching Pastor at North Coast Church since 2004. Chris is a graduate of Azusa Pacific University. He lives in Oceanside with his wife Amy and their three children.

The reason I liked him sooooo much was because he shared leadership right out of the Bible... and shared things that I had never considered, which were amazing... Here are a few things that impacted me...

- Spiritual leadership will always be different than secular leadership. -1 Samuel 18
- Saul didn't have room in his chariot for David. Saul had room in the company, but Saul couldn't celebrate the achievements of others, the moment they started to overshadow his achievements.
- We're going to get a healthier you. We're going to get a healthier team. We're going to get a healthier organization.
- We have made God's church a hierarchy.
- Can we empower others to the point of taking some of our power and prestige?
- What difference is the Holy Spirit making in the way I currently lead?
- Give away what we have in leadership, because Jesus did even to the point of death.

This article certainly doesn't come close to how wonderful this presentation was. Want more? GO HERE: <http://www.willowcreek.com/events/leadership/vidhub.asp>

Note: our new Secretariat members are included on the last page, with contact info.

.....please continue to lift up Ron Winkler and Jean Lisk, our rector/rectora for Weekend 29. Team formation meetings have begun, with the Heads & Rollistas meeting last weekend, and the first full team session – plus Essentials training – slated for Saturday, September 14, at First Presbyterian Church in Janesville. (Please see the website, calendar entry, for a link to the map.) If you desire to serve on team, please contact Ron or Jean, there may be openings available.

AND.....pray for who you should/could invite as a candidate!

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

From our Weekend 29 Men's Rector, Ron Winkler.....

As we prepare for the upcoming ALTD weekend #29, I would ask you – as a community - to start thinking of men and women we should be asking to experience God's grace, peace, and love. I came across this passage from a devotional I got from an ALTD brother, and it reminded me of making sure we step out of our comfort zone and ask that special person to go on a "Tres Dias" weekend.

The scripture reading is from "Isaiah 35:2b-3"

"They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees"

The author, Susan V. Clark writes: Over a century ago Washington Gladden penned the hymn "O Master, Let me walk with thee." The plea seems to hearken back to a simpler time. Just you and me, Lord. This is not however, the prayer of Gladden's hymn. It continues "in lowly paths of service free..." The hymn not only speaks of the humble desire to walk with the Lord but also of our call to serve others. We are servants of the Master who walks with us.

Many in our communities live without Christ's Grace and Love in their lives. We as an ALTD community should find the way to ask these men and women to "step out of their comfort zone" and accept God's grace, peace, and love. We need to find the way to include them in our lives and churches.

They need to know that the fee to come on a weekend should not be the deterrent to not go. I believe the Holy Spirit will make this happen if this person should be on His weekend.



With a closing prayer let us pray:

O Master, let us walk with you in lowly paths of service free.

Help us to bear the strain and fret, to step out of our comfort zones.

Show us the way to be your hands and feet.

Keep us strong in faith and strong in your trust, so that there will be triumph over evil.

We ask you this in your Son's name Christ Jesus, Amen

ALTD men's weekend: November 7-10, 2013; Inspiration Center

ALTD women's weekend: Nov. 14-17, 2013; Inspiration Center

ALTD SECRETARIAT MEMBERS

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