

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

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Newsletter of the Washington Christian Church

FEBRUARY 2006

2006 - YEAR OF CONSTRUCTION

Valentine's Banquet / Children's Party

Don't forget your sweetheart this Valentine's Day.

Plan now to attend the Valentine's Banquet on Wednesday, February 15th at 6:00 p.m. here at church. There will be a meal provided, with entertainment by the High Schoolers.

The menu will be a choice of Roast Beef w/Gravy and Baked Potato or Baked Spaghetti. Both will be served with Salad, Bread, Green Beans, and Dessert. The cost is \$8 per person. All proceeds will go toward the Youth Fundraiser Account.

And if you have little ones and are worried about getting a babysitter, don't! While the adults enjoy some fun entertainment and relax to a delicious meal the kids (ages toddlers thru 4th grade) will enjoy pizza and games in the Education Wing at the same time. What a great deal!!!

There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer, so be sure to get signed up for your meal choice by Sunday, February 12th. (Sign up ahead but pay at the door.) Don't forget to sign up your children too so we know how many to prepare for. Kids eat free, but we do accept donations which will also go toward our Youth fundraiser.

*We are in need of helpers for the Toddlers - 4th Graders during the Banquet. Contact Jon if you can help us out!

My Valentine Wish

by Kay Hoffman

I'd like to hang a valentine
Upon the world's front door,
With hearts of love and peace entwined
To last forevermore.

With love to guide our daily path,
There'd be no one in need;
God's blessings would be shared by all
Of every race and creed.

Peace would come to all the world
As nations great and small
Would put aside their selfish aims
To work for the good of all.

If I could have my wish today,
I'd wish for nothing more
Than to hang a great big valentine
Upon our world's front door.

A Valentine Prayer

by Gertrude Rudberg

O Lord, I ask before I start,
As Valentine's comes round,
That I may find within my heart
Its meaning deep, profound.

I ask Thee, Lord, that I may find
Some place where there is need,
Where I can be a little kind
And plant a friendly seed.

I ask Thee, Lord, that I might give
A little bit of love
To those I've felt I can't forgive
As Thou dost from above.

I ask Thee, Lord, to be my guide,
Grant patience, courage too
That I may e'er with Thee abide
In all I try to do.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE MINISTERS

Well, it's February again. Time for groundhogs, Super Bowls, Presidents' birthdays, and yes, expressions of love. While all of these are worthy for consideration as a topic for this month's newsletter article, I figured it might be best to go with "Love".

The word "Love," in my opinion, is gravely overused. We say things like, "I love those shoes," or "I love Monical's Pizza," or "I love that song." Really? Do I love Monical's Pizza the same way that I love my wife? Of course not. Do you really love some of the things that you say you do as much as, say, your spouse, your kids, your family, or your friends?

See, I think that we use this word "Love" so much that it has lost its beauty and grandeur. So, when we hear things about God's love for us and how we are to be people of love for God and others, it doesn't mean as much as it should.

See, love at its purest levels, the way God created it to be, is completely unselfish. God doesn't love because of anything he gets out of it or that he needs it, he loves because that's who he is.

We say we love a lot of things because of what we get out of them. If Monical's Pizza was terrible, I wouldn't say that I love it. So I don't really love it, I just say that I do. But pure, unadulterated love, real love, is what you feel when it doesn't matter what you get from the other end, because love never has 'ME' in mind. Please, take a moment. Don't rush to the next sentence. Really let that last phrase sink in before you read on.

So, what does this mean for followers of Jesus and the Church? When Jesus tells us to love God and love others, it is never meant for what we can get out of the deal. So when we love and care for people, it is not because of what they have done for us or will do for us. Loving others is not some strategy to try to coax people through the church doors. If our love for others has some sort of "catch" to it, then it isn't love. We can call it love, but it isn't. The Church loves the world because that's what it was created to do.

So, as followers of Christ, we give and we give and we give, and we sacrifice, and we care, and we love,

with no coercion, no ulterior motives, because that is what real love is.

Don't hear me wrong. I'm not saying that inviting people to church is a bad thing. On the contrary, I think it is a very good thing. But we all have people in our lives that we feel we can't "get through to." No matter what we do or say, they have no interest in Church, or Jesus, or Spiritual things. What would happen if we focused not on how we could convince them to come to church, but in what ways we could bless their lives? What if we gave something of ourselves, big or small, that was simply an attempt to help them, bless them, and show them that we really do care about them, with no strings attached. What if, instead of knowing you as the friend trying to "convert" them, this person in your life knew you simply as this amazing person who is constantly sacrificing him or herself for others? Might this person have different opinions about Church and Christians? Might this person catch a little glimpse of the love of God? Might we?

So may the word "Love" take on a renewed meaning in your life. And may it take on new and renewed meaning to others because of you.

Jon Pittman

Annual Report Deadline

The deadline for every Team Chairman for turning in your Annual Report is quickly approaching. The Annual Report is published on April 1st each year and in order for me to get this report out on time I need each Team's report on my desk by Sunday, February 12th. Of course, I always appreciate when your reports are turned in early and I will gladly accept them as soon as you can get them to me.

Please include in your report a little of what your Team does in the church, accomplishments over the past year, goals for the present year, and Team members involved in the committee. Also, those Teams or organizations that have financial reports need to include that information also.

Thanks, Mary

Elders'/Church Leaders' Conference

On Saturday, Feb. 25th at Lincoln Christian College & Seminary will be holding their annual Elders'/Church Leaders' Conference. The theme this year is "Leading Your Church to be a Redemptive Community." Keynote speakers are Jim Van Yperen and David Erickson.

Registration fee is \$25, which includes the sessions, materials, refreshments, and a box lunch. The church will pay \$12.50 towards your registration. The deadline to get your check for \$12.50 and registration form to the office is Mon, Feb. 13th. Make checks payable to LCC&S. Forms are on the bulletin board in the foyer. See the poster in the foyer for more details on the Conference.

MissioNews

by Wally Born

Cambodian Mission

In Cambodia there is ongoing kingdom work being done through an oversight agency called World Team. Our involvement in this work is through our support of Tom Seckler and his family. He and his wife Debbie and their daughters Jessica and Sarah have been serving off and on in Cambodia for the past nine years. Through good times and setbacks, sicknesses and break-ins, the work there has progressed and now 22 other workers have followed. Out of their work in Cambodia has grown a church that took up the name "Living Waters Church". This gathering has grown to the point that it can be self-sustaining. It is led by local brethren who have studied and shown themselves to be responsible, mature believers.

Tom reports that the work he is doing there is registered as a religious organization by the government. At this time the Cambodian government tolerates foreign charities as they help the country rebuild both physically and spiritually after years of oppressive rule. World Team brings the gospel of Christ and along with that the wisdom to end corruption and conduct themselves honestly. They teach by example respect for each other in marriage and show a temperance that results in less strife in their life and reduced anger. The Christian worldview is a positive benefit to the society of

Cambodia and it is thought that because of this the government doesn't interfere too much.

People there are receptive to the message because of the strife left over from long regional wars and the failed economy of communism. The close family structure also lends itself to spreading the good news. They find that many times interested family member will invite next of kin to the next Bible study.

Through these Bible study gatherings is generally how worship groups get their start. The Secklers teach about God and his perfect nature and about Man and his natural shortcomings that can only be bridged by our savior Jesus the Christ. They stress personal study and prayer that leads to a desire to return praise with others in group worship.

Many of the other team members are also working through Bible study small group ministries to reach the Cambodian people. This is a powerful tool for the Gospel. Let us remember this as we expand the small group ministry here at Washington Christian Church.

Towards the end of March the Secklers will be returning to Cambodia. Their desire then will be to reach out to the Cham, one of the country's minority groups. To us this group may appear similar but they generally have their own cultural identity that keeps them separated from the general population.

Tom asks for our prayers as they study the culture of these people in order to be able to accept and present the gospel in a way that is the most meaningful for them.

Washington Christian Village News

Snow People:

Some of you had an opportunity to see the attractive character snow people in the fellowship hall a couple of Sundays ago. Well, Rose Bankes suggested that a snowman would make a cute table decoration, and Roseanne Howley ran with the idea of personalized snow people for the February table decoration at the Washington Christian Village. She spent over four hours working with the snow people. Roseanne's grandson, Miles Howley provided all the sticks which were used for arms.

We are so lucky to have such talented and creative individuals in the congregation. Thanks!

Washington Christian Church Volunteer Day for February is Tuesday, Feb. 28th @ 9 AM. See Anamarie Morris with questions.

Washington Christian Village Auxiliary

February and March are the months that the WCV volunteers collect annual Auxiliary dues. Each year the WCV Auxiliary asks people to donate \$2 per member to join WCV Auxiliary. The annual dues are used by the Auxiliary for a major yearly project.

In the past, the WCV Auxiliary has purchased new mattresses and a modified bathtub for the elderly. Several lift canvases are available to help the aides lift heavier patients.

Please stop by the table set up for the WCV Auxiliary and invest in a service. There are many individuals who have expressed a desire to serve at the Village but are constrained by work obligations. The dues allow everyone an opportunity to participate in this ministry.

Youth Page

Aluminum Can Drive

If you are saving cans for our Youth fundraiser you may bring them in plastic bags to the South Parsonage garage. Please, we can only take aluminum cans. No other aluminum will be accepted.

Coming in March

Who: All 7th and 8th Graders!!!

What: Clinton Jr. High Overnight Rally

When: Friday/Saturday, March 10th-11th

Where: Clinton, IL

Why: For a Spiritual Uplift and a REALLY good time!

How Much: Get a \$25 registration fee to Jon no later that Sunday, Feb. 26th.

Valentine's Day Banquet

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

This Banquet will help raise money for this Summer's Missions Trip. High Schoolers wanting to take part in this, let Jon know ASAP. All those

participating in this Summer's Mission Trip are expected to participate in this fundraiser.

*We are in need of volunteers to help with the kids in the back (Toddlers - 4th Grades) while the Banquet is going on. Again, talk to Jon ASAP.

Don't forget!!! The High School Youth Group is meeting at the Pittman's on Sunday evenings from 6--8 p.m.

Jr/Sr High Super Bowl Party

You Won't Want To Miss This Party!!!

Join us Sunday, Feb. 5th at 5 PM here at Church for a Jr/Sr High Super Bowl Party. We are asking that everyone bring a snack and/or a 2 liter of soda and \$ for Pizza and Nachos. Jr/Sr High families are invited too! There will be no nursery provided. See Jon for details.

February's Youth Team Meeting will be held Wednesday, February 1st at 7:30 PM. This is for all the Youth Ministry Teams. Please see Cory Hynek if unable to attend.

PRIME TIMERS PERSPECTIVE

Prime Timers Calendar of Events for February:

February's Prime Timers Prayer Breakfast ~
Saturday, Feb. 4th @ 9:00 a.m.

WCV Volunteer Day ~ Tuesday, Feb 28th @ 9 a.m.

Will You Love Me When I'm Old?

Author Unknown

I would ask you, my darling,
A question, soft and low,
That gives me many a heartache
As the moments come and go.

Your love, I know, is truthful,
But the truest love grows cold;
It is this that I would ask you;
Will you love me when I'm old?

Life's morn will soon be waning,
And its evening bells shall toll,

But my heart shall know no sadness
If you'll love me when I'm old.

Down the stream of life together
We sail on side by side,
Hoping some bright day to anchor
Safe beyond its surging tide.

Today our sky is cloudless,
But the night may clouds unfold;
And though storms may gather round us,
Will you love me when I'm old?

When my hair shall shade the snowdrift
And mine eyes shall dimmer grow,
I would lean upon some loved one
Through the valley as I go.

I would claim of you a promise
Worth to me a world of gold;
It is only this, my darling,
That you'll love me when I'm old.

"Senior Saints in the Smokies"

The date chosen for next year at "Senior Saints in the Smokies" trip is June 5-9. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to have a great spiritual time at Johnson Bible College.

If you've never attended this Seniors trip before and would like to know more about it just talk to one of the Prime Timers who has gone in the past. They all rave about what a great time they had. For more information see Jeff Browning.

'End of the Spear' ~ Movie Review

I want to invite you to see the movie "End of the Spear." It is now playing at the Rave Theater in Peoria and the Show Place Cinemas in North Pekin. Unless you have heard this movie mentioned by word of mouth or advertised on Christian radio, it is likely you know nothing about it. It is a movie you should see and take any non-believing family and friends to see. It ranks in impact with *Passion of the Christ* on American cinema goes. In it's first week,

this non-Hollywood embraced nor promoted film came in 10th in box office receipts. It is a story about forgiveness with life lessons to be learned.

Some of you are familiar with the massacre of five missionaries in the South American jungle of Ecuador. Some of you have read Elizabeth Elliot's book *Through the Gates of Splendor*, on of the surviving widows.

The True Story

In 1956, five missionaries dared to make contact with the most savage tribe in history, the Waodani, who live deep in the Amazon basin of Ecuador. After initial friendly contact their excitement quickly turned to fear, and all five men were killed. Soon after, a wife of one of the slain men, and sister of another, went to live with Woadani. Within two years, the tribal homicide rate dropped more than 90 percent. This story was made famous by LIFE magazine. Many people are familiar with the story of the missionaries, but very few have heard the rest of the story, from the perspective of the tribe, until now.

The Motion Picture

End of the Spear follows the remarkable true story through the life journeys of two people. Mincayani, a Waodani warrior who led the raid that killed the missionaries, and Steve Saint, the son of the missionary Mincayani killed. Mincayani's tribe struggles to survive the revenge spearings that threaten to wipe out his family completely. His encounter with the five missionaries, and his spearing of Nate Saint, propels him down an extraordinary path that culminates in coming face to face with Steve Saint. Their future will be decided, one way or another, at the end of the spear.

I want to urge you to see this movie and to take someone with you. There is brutal violence, so beware for your young children. The message is powerful. In the final credits, half of all profits from this film are going to the evangelization of other indigenous tribes. (*from Creve Coeur C.C.'s Newsletter - written by John Plunkett*)

F. Y. I. For Your Information

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES:

Turn into church office by the 15th of the month.

Suggested length of the articles:

Typewritten-1/2 pages / Handwritten-1 1/2 pages

Pictures should be black and white if possible.

Articles must be signed - name will be withheld from publication upon request.

Editor reserves right to condense, edit, or reject articles.

God is like... A HALLMARK CARD : He cares enough to send His very best.

God is like... TIDE : He gets the stains out that others leave behind.

Church Leadership Elections

The Annual Church Leadership Elections will be held Sunday, February 26th at the end of both Worship Services. All Church Members, 16 years of age or older my vote in this election. A list of all candidates will be made available on Sunday, February 12th thru the election date.

Circle of Friends News

Don't forget our service project for Thursday, February 23, at 6:30 p.m.. We plan to have a S.S.S.S. Party while having an opportunity to fellowship with each other.

If you are not aware, an SSSS Party is one where everyone Sips, Sorting, Snips, and Snacks to their hearts content.

As you have read for several weeks in the bulletin, we are collecting all your old, used crayons to melt down and make modified crayons for disabled children. Be sure and save and bring these crayons to church and put them in the foyer in the labeled cans before that Thursday date. If you have lots of crayons to donate and have the time, or have kids who need something to keep them busy, any

presorted crayons by colors and/or with paper removed would be greatly appreciated.

**Also, we need several older sauce pans to use as double boilers to melt the crayons, and several older muffin pans too. If you have any that we could borrow please talk to Anamarie Morris.

One more thing . . . please save any empty, frozen juice cans and 3 oz. size tuna or cat food cans (well cleaned of course) that we could use to melt the crayons. Drop them off in the kitchen. Thanks!

The EASTER SEALS' representative was very excited that our church group was involved in this project of providing modified crayons for handicapped and special needs children.

We will circulate among several tables. Laura Piefer, from Pampered Chef, provided ceramic knives to help remove the paper wrapper around the crayons.

Please bring a friend and your favorite snack to share.

Thank you Donors: Thank you very much those of you who have turned in crayons and those who have sorted crayons by color.

If anyone is interested in doing tedious, nit-picky stuff, while watching TV or waiting for children, we do need paper peeled off the crayons. Please be sure to have the crayons back at the church before that evening.

Christian Education

EQUIP 2006 Ministries

Christian Workers Conference

EQUIP Ministries will be holding it's annual Christian Workers Conference this February 17-18, 2006 at the Peoria Civic Center.

Keynote Speaker this year is Bruce Miller, Founder of the Center for Church Based Training and Senior Pastor at McKinney Fellowship Bible Church in Texas.

EQUIP is not just for Sunday School Teachers anymore! This year there are 10 different time slots with up to 13 different tracks of workshops to

choose from, an exhibit hall filled with resources to equip you for ministry, along with the general session to encourage you to greater ministry. There are also 4 special seminar options designed to give you in-depth training in your specific area of ministry.

Although, Sunday School/Christian Education has already sent in our registration, if you would still like to attend, you may sign up at the door for \$35. Let us know in the Sunday School Office (talk to Mary) and we will reimburse you for \$25. Pick up a workshop brochure in the church office to plan your conference ahead of time. See Mary Fisher with questions.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

Please make these changes to your church directory.

Amy Sinn
410 East Eureka #18
Eureka, IL 61530

Jean Filson
Cheri, Tiffany, Jesse, & Kate
207 Court Dr.
Washington, IL 61571
444-8270

Rick & Tami Mason
A.J., Lily, & Lexi
905 Hampton
Washington, IL 61571
678-8331

F.I.S.H. News

The F.I.S.H. menus for February are as follows:
February 1st: Ham & Beans, Relish Tray, Dessert;
Feb. 8th: Chili, Relish Tray, Dessert; Feb. 15th: No
F.I.S.H.-Valentine's Banquet; Feb. 22nd: Beef &
Noodles, Salad, Dessert;

Please sign up in the foyer by the Sunday before the meal, and if you have to cancel, please call the office as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly. Cost: \$3 per person or \$7 per immediate family.

Join us after the meal (6:15 p.m.) for the Adult Bible Studies and Youth Groups.

Dominican Republic Mission Trip

Jess Bochart, Laura Fisher, Andrew & Lindsey (Fisher) Hanes, Angie & Olivia Hobbs, and Dawn, Steve & Benjamin Peterson will be heading to Santiago, Dominican Republic in late February for an 8-day Mission Trip. They will be leaving on Tuesday, Feb. 21st and returning on the 28th. As the trip quickly approaches please continue to pray for these 9 people and those from Lincoln Christian Church too.

Also, the group wants to thank all of you who so generously supported them financially and helped them reach and surpass their financial goal. We do indeed have a very generous, loving church! They are so looking forward to this trip and reporting back to all of you upon their return.

Again, please keep them in your prayer as they prepare for their trip, the ministry they will be involved in while there, and for safe travel.

Cancellation of Worship Due To Bad Weather

We've had a great Summer and Fall, and so far not too bad of a winter. But just in case the weather turns bad enough to cancel Worship Services or F.I.S.H. you might want to tune into one of our area radio stations for any cancellations. We will advertise a cancellation on WCIC 91.5 FM, WPEO 1020 AM, WBNH 88.5 FM and WMBD 1470 AM. When the weather is bad listen in.

An Epidemic of Christian Joy

I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin.
When he smiled, I realized I had passed my joy on to him.
I thought about my smile, then I realized it's worth.
A single joyous smile could travel round the earth.
So, when I smile for Christ's sake, I'll not leave it undetected.
I'll try to start an epidemic and get the whole world infected.
Give it a try.

copied from the Sunnyland Christian Church Newsletter