

On the Wing

Winter 2009

We Can Make a Difference By David Watkins, Community Spiritual Director

1 Thessalonians 1:3 – “We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

As the community of ministers, which is Promiseland Chrysalis, it is good to look from time to time at what motivates us in our task of ministering to the youth of the Church. Just as the foundation of a house can determine whether it stands strong or collapses over time, so our spiritual foundation for ministry can mean the difference between making an eternal difference in a young life and just making some short-term noise.

When Paul wrote to the church in Thessalonica, he commended them for three aspects of their ministry. It was by these three things that they were able to set an example for other churches and effectively share the good

news of Jesus Christ and as a result, grow more and more in the fullness of God themselves.

First of all, Paul points out their “work produced by faith”. The ministry of the church was rooted in their relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Our ministry can be produced by tradition, pride, a drive for success, or desire for acceptance, but only that produced by faith will last. We minister out of the understanding that when we do so, we are merely carrying out our family business: bringing the lost world into a redeemed relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Next, Paul commends their “labor prompted by love”. There are many factors that can prompt us to work in the ministry. Some work out of obligation (somebody has to do it); some out of a sense of works righteousness (I’ve gotta do this so God will like

me); and some believe that only they are able to do what needs to be done (Savior complex). But in order to be effective ministers for Jesus Christ, our labor must be prompted by love because Jesus Christ loves us and gave Himself for us; because we love Jesus Christ and desire to respond to His love; and because having been loved, we have grown to have a love for others. People won’t care how much we know until they know how much we care.

Finally, Paul writes of their “endurance inspired by hope”. The Thessalonian church was small, poor, and persecuted, yet, in their hope for a glorious future with Christ, they found a reason to keep on keeping on. In hard times especially, we can fall into a defensive mode, “circle up the wagons,” and just try to hold on. We lose sight of our future and our only reason to exist: to reach souls for Jesus Christ. If we allow our hope to inspire us, however, hope will tell us that our Savior reigns eternally in victory, our God is powerful and faithful, and our labors are never in vain if they are founded in Christ. If we don’t give up, we WILL make a difference in our world.

As we begin another year of Chrysalis ministry, it is time for all of us—as individual ministers and as a body of ministry—to take a look at where we’re coming from. What will be our foundation? Will what we do make an eternal impact or just fade away? May we choose well. Fly with Christ.



Flight #40

**Saturday, February 14
through
Monday, February 16**

Green Pastures
Christian Campground
Meredosia, IL

Lay Director:
Amy Watkins

Youth Lay Director:
Betsy Reid

Spiritual Director:
Floyd Blackard

For more information,
please contact
**Board Representative
Steve Fox**
at 217-338-4273 or email
to svfox@adams.net

Please keep the team &
caterpillars in your
prayers!

And show your support
by attending Candlelight
and Closing, providing
Agape, or helping
with Outpost!

Flight #40 Announcements



Please note that Flight #40 will start on Saturday, February 14, and conclude Monday, February 16.

Special activities will be held as follows:

- Registration:** Saturday, February 14, 10-11 a.m.
- Sponsors Hour:** Saturday, February 14, 11 a.m.
- Apostolic Hour and Candlelight:** Sunday, February 15, 7:30 p.m.
- Outpost:** Sunday, February 15, after Church
- Closing:** Monday, February 16, 5:30 p.m.

The Princess by Kelly Long, Community Lay Director



Our household has for many years enjoyed the stories of the Disney princesses. Each movie has differences, and similarities.

They always have happy endings.

Sometimes the princess makes her own way; sometimes she is rescued by the prince; sometimes she is helped along by a wide variety of interesting side characters; but the princess always prevails or shines in her story.

How about God's version of the princess?

There is an honorable princess (queen, actually) in the Bible story of Esther. (Though my mind's eye sees her as a human, it is sometimes hard not to think of her as an asparagus as in the Veggie Tales version of this Bible passage!) She is courageous and is willing to step out in faith. She is a woman to be admired as she fulfills God's plan. But who are the interesting side characters in this princess story?

Esther's faithful friend: Mordecai. He is a relative, a friend, and somewhat of a strange guy as he sits by the gate

and prays and waits. But the interesting part to me is the passage in chapter 2 and again in 4 where he continually encourages Esther to be who God is asking her to be. He advises and speaks the truth to Esther: Save your people; speak to the King; stand with God.

Mordecai ends up illustrating the side character who God is asking all of us to be. There are so many passages in the Bible that ask us to encourage and love each other; to stand on a daily basis with those around us in their walk, in their faith; and to help them shine in the light of God.

Mordecai is that example of the direction we need to be heading as encouragers of all those we know who have attended a Chrysalis Flight or Emmaus Walk in the last several years. They need your encouragement to stay plugged in to the Bible, the Father, and the living Savior. They need to continue to hear the truth of the Gospel not only through words, but through your actions.

Read the book of Esther again and pray about whom and how you might come along side a new Butterfly or someone you have

sponsored in the past to encourage and guide their next steps. Help them start a reunion group, or encourage them in their leadership opportunities.

Flight and Walk weekends are such wonderful times of our lives, but don't let it all stop there. Reach out to those Butterflies around you, stand in the gap, sit at the gate and pray as Mordecai did.

Esther 4:14- "And who knows but that you have come to a royal position for such a time as this?"

Fly with Christ!

Come! Join the Outpost!

Remember the agape found on your pillow, at your table, and in the dining hall? You could be the one making it!

Come, join others in Christian fellowship and lots of fun as you serve God "behind the scenes" creating agape, filling letter sacks, and helping with Apostolic Hour.

Flight #40...Come after church on Sunday, February 15. Blue cottage at Green Pastures. See you there!

JOIN US....

CHRYSALIS CLUSTERS AND FLIGHT #40 REUNION

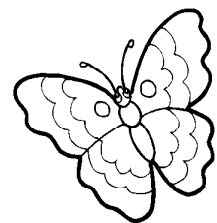
Saturday, February 28, 2009

6:00 PM @ Schuylight Christian Coffee House
226 North Liberty Street, Rushville, IL



Saturday, March 7, 2009

3:00-6:00 PM @ The Loft
North Side of Square, Pawnee, IL



After the Cluster, come and worship at the Saturday Night Alive service at Pawnee United Methodist Church!

EVERYONE is encouraged to attend and enjoy food, fun, and fellowship!

For more information, please contact Amy Watkins at 217-322-2981.

In the Field: Shhh...Listen....



I remember at a very early age being taken into a room with some nurses and being advised about the procedure soon to follow. As a prescreening for kindergarten, I was to undergo a hearing test to determine if I needed any special attention. It was custom for my Mom to wait outside while they ran their tests, though this left me feeling awkward and shy. However, the nurses seemed friendly and somehow got me talking about things. Now as a kid, you are generally excited to profess your adventures to the world or at least anyone who is curious enough to inquire, so I spouted off some stories for a few minutes while they prepped for the sound test. For this particular examination, I was given a pair of headphones to wear and was instructed to press a "Jeopardy" stick whenever I heard a beep in either or both ears, however loud or faint. Still chatting away, the nurses failed to tell me when the actual test would begin, and I started to hear some beeps while I was rambling. This caught me somewhat off guard, and I was about to notify them that I wasn't ready when I heard another, more faint beep. So I shut my trap and listened. At this point in my life, early as it may seem at the tender age of 4, I was already an avid gamer and adored both my NES console and Commodore 64 computer at home. This to me was a game of which I was very serious about. Performing optimally at games was always a prime objective as I considered myself to be talented at most. For this reason I continued to listen intently and pressed my buzzer at

every little something I heard or thought I heard in those headphones. They did inform me when the test was finished, and I was adamant about explaining to them that I could have done better at the beginning and may have missed a few sounds because I was 'Miss Chatty Cathy'. They reassured me that I did exceptional and should not worry about it. Shortly after some other tests for vision and cognitive skills, I was off and back with my Mom.

Oftentimes we are preoccupied and most likely so content doing our own things that we do not focus on the task at hand. We are too busy heralding our own stories. We are so diligently blazing our own trail and living an egocentric lifestyle that we do not see that which is usually laid out before us if we simply choose to take notice. Once we realize this, it is then very effortless to stop blabbering to others about ourselves and start listening to what God is calling us to do. We may not always want to quit talking, but choosing to do so is one of the first steps to becoming an obedient servant of God.

Now this leads into the next topic of which I like to call selective hearing. As mentioned earlier, I pretty much aced that hearing test, and my parents knew that. As a child I had what I thought to be incredible hearing abilities. Sometimes even my sisters would question me with weird looks after I expressed that I heard a sound somewhere in the house. Like any cunning and often mischievous child, I honed this skill to my advantage against another growing pain of childhood: the duty of chores. Trying to escape the parent's wake when they beckon

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Do You Have a Facebook Page?

If so, join the group "Chrysalis Rocks!!!!" There you will find information on upcoming Flights, Clusters, and service opportunities. Go to <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/group>.

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PROMISELAND CHRYSALIS

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Chrysalis Flights, Green Pastures Christian Campground, Meredosia

Flight #40, February 14-16, 2009 (Note: Sat-Mon weekend), Prep Weekend: Feb.6-8; Anointing: Feb 8 at 4:00 p.m.

Flight #41, July 31-August 2, 2009

Flight #42, November 20-22 (Girls Only Flight); Flight #43, February 2010 (Boys Only Flight)

2009 Central Illinois Emmaus Walks (www.ciemmaus.com)

Men's #218 February 19-22, Lake Springfield Christian Assembly Camp

Women's #219 March 12-15, Lake Springfield Christian Assembly Camp

Men's #220Q July 9-12, Quincy University

Women's #221Q July 30-August 2, Quincy University

Men's #222 October 15-18, Lake Springfield Christian Assembly Camp

Women's #223 October 29-November 1, Lake Springfield Christian Assembly Camp

What time is it?

Chrysalis Team Anointing Service: Sunday at 4 p.m. during prep weekend, Green Pastures

Chrysalis Flight Registration: Friday from 10-11 a.m.; Sponsor's Hour: Friday at 11 a.m., Green Pastures

Chrysalis Apostolic Hour & Candlelight: Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Green Pastures (Note day/time change for Flight #40 on page 1)

Chrysalis Closing: Sunday at 4:30 p.m., Green Pastures (Note day/time change for Flight #40 on page 1)

Walk to Emmaus Sponsor's Hour: Thursday at 8 p.m., Villa Maria

Walk to Emmaus Apostolic Hour & Candlelight: Saturday at 8:30 p.m., Sugar Creek United Methodist Church

Walk to Emmaus Closing: Sunday at 5 p.m., Sugar Creek United Methodist Church

In the Field: Shhh...Listen.... (continued from page 3)

you to do these is inexorably futile. Except, that is, when you choose to conveniently disregard the call upstairs to your room, or the call to the basement to finish your chores before dinner, or before watching TV, or before further video games. Playing dumb? No, smart. Merely the development of instincts and the skills of survival as a child in a crowded house. Selective hearing, my friend. Playing was always more fun than work, so why bother? Though when the call for dinner resonates, this is NEVER missed.

Yet for as long as we can avoid doing chores at present, they must still be completed, if not by us, then by someone else. Most likely they will still be done by you eventually, maybe even against your will, after several gentle reminders from the 'rents and then perhaps a couple more forceful ones. Or else your parents will do them for you with rewards of repercussions. The same holds true for our Christian responsibilities. Some of us may well hear what it is that God is calling us to do, but blatantly choose to ignore this task. Selective Christian hearing. We must not avoid these chores before God calls us back to His table for dinner. Though He openly shares dinner with everyone, He knows whether or not each has been a faithful servant. He will still remind us of the chores He has laid out for us, and if you continually refuse, He will handle the task Himself or find another willing servant to perform it. While God does not hold our reluctance against us, our selfish act is like sending ourselves to our own room as punishment. We have severed our communication and reverence with God, however brief.

To listen is to learn patience. To be a servant is to practice that patience.

Realize that God's timing is different than our own. A servant has no say in when he or she will be called to service or what he or she will be called to do. Remember that. All you can do is be ready. Countless Flights at Green Pastures have taught me that the letters of the word LISTEN also spell the word SILENT. How perfectly relevant. God gave us two ears and one mouth for a reason. We should be silent and listen twice as much as we open our big yappers.

As God's servant, I have listened and avoided my own task for a few years. He has advocated and finally convinced me to write this column for you readers. This may have been my selective Christian hearing kicking in for some time and me wrestling with the idea to actually reach out in a new capacity for spiritual growth. Although scared about the effectiveness of completing this assignment, I have adhered to God's design for me. I am His soldier in the field, weathered by a broad spectrum of experiences those younger than I will inevitably face. I place myself here now listening as a friend, as a big brother, who will help you with your own struggles as best as I am able. Do not hesitate to contact me with any concerns or guidance you seek on any subject. My contact information is listed below. Just be sure to prefix your correspondence with a reference to this column so I am aware of who is trying to reach me. Keep in mind the most important question is usually the one you are afraid to ask even though everyone is thinking it. I'm here for you and open to discuss anything. I am listening...

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PROMISELAND CHRYSALIS FLIGHT #39



November 21-23, 2008

Row 1: Becky Crum, Scott Honnen, Danny Motta, Jamie Flood, Jack Hull, David Watkins, (Coach) Dennis Devino, LuAnne Miller, Harold Turner **Row 2:** KEAN-AN NYS, JOSH BUCHANAN, SHAY HAMM, LEXY THOMASON, RUTH HULFORD, Elizabeth Gardner, Jeanne Shriver, JORDAN TAYLOR, Brittney McClain, JORDAN INGRAM, TYLER HICKMAN **Row 3:** AMELIA RUSSELL, AMANDA WRENN, Hannah Hedinger, Kari Bowen, Lindsay Shiflett, Katelyn Long, RANDY FRANCIS JR., Demi Braden, SARA HOWELL, DARREK MERRILL, John Wrenn, Donna Kibler **Row 4:** TRAVIS TURNER, Jill Mason, Ryan Witt, SPENCER WATERS, Rick Lafary, Ken Trone, Oliver Taube, Dale Kibler, Jenny Fox, Payge Bowen, Bethani Hursey, Tirssa Schaefer **Row 5:** EMILY LARGE, BROOKE MECKLEY, WENDY CHANDLER, OLIVIA HICKMAN, Carolyn Turner, DAKOTA POLLOCK, Brent Wrenn, Troy Fahrenbacher, Steve Miller, Ted Baer, MATT ESCAR-RAZ, Andrew Austin, Dianne Kircher, JEFF DETERS, Ryan Wade, RYAN MILLER, Tom Brookens, JUSTEN BRIDGEMAN, DILLON BARNARD **Not pictured:** Bob Einhouse, Kathy Hull, Shirley Wear **CAPITALIZED NAMES ARE NEW BUTTERFLIES**