

# SONLIFE NEWS

## SonLife Community Church

www.sonlifecc.org

June 2008

### Thank you letter to Sonlife Community Church

"We can not begin to express the heartfelt thanks for your support of our organization's work with the youth in our community! Your generous donation helps to keep us encouraged in our goal to make a difference in the lives of a lost generation. May God richly bless your kindness and repay it a thousand fold!

"What you have done for us goes beyond mere words and has truly touched our souls. We pray the strength of your continued true ministry of Christ! Please continue to pray for our work!"

God Bless You All!!"

*Darlene Taylor*

*President, It Takes A Village, Crisfield.*

### Women of Faith Conference in September

This year's theme is "Infinite Grace" for the main event; the theme for the pre-conference on Friday with Patsy Clairmont, Anita Renfroe and Jan Silvius is "I Second that Emotion."

Prepare yourself for lots of laughter but also tears because these ladies have a god-given ability to touch hearts with both emotions. The special guests for the main event are Nicole C. Mullen and Max Lucado! All and all, this is a conference you don't want to miss!



Our "serious" pastor, Marshall Wise, second from right, obviously had a great comment during June's monthly church chat. Facing the camera from the left are Jan Wiseman, Craig Larson, Linda Larson, Glenn Knudsen, Estrella Knudsen, Donna Digby, Claire Emond (partially hidden) and Bob Hastings at the right.

The dates of the full conference are September 12-13, 2008. There are 3 tickets remaining. Please see Inge for more information or if you are interested in purchasing a ticket. The tickets are \$99 each.

### **Dinner; of Eight coming back...join up now**

A few years ago, our church met in small groups of 6 or 8 for a meal and to get to know one another better. We would like to try that again.

On Sunday, we will have sign-up sheets for those who would like to host (you can also ask someone to co-host with you) and for those who would like to be a part of getting to know others better in a casual setting. We will divide into groups and try to get people with others than just teammates. It is really a fun gathering. We will probably not get this off the ground before September but would encourage people to sign up as quickly as possible. "Try it, you'll like it!"

### **Weekly team meetings;**

One of the strengths of our church is the opportunity to build relationships with each other and the first place that can be done is through the weekly team meetings in a member's home.

**Monday evening**, 7-9 p.m., The Mattson Team. Contact Christine Mattson at (410) 548-7557 or Lee Still at (410) 742-0675.

**Wednesday evening**, 7-9 p.m., The Wise Team. Contact Pastor Marshall or Gilda Wise at (410) 548-5688.

**Thursday evening**, 7-9 p.m., The Larson Team. Contact Craig or Linda Larson at (410) 742-5134.

### **News of the teams . . . Larson Team**

The Larson team has been without Craig much of last month due to board meetings at his school so Linda has been leading which is a stretch for her and the team!! They have been very gracious as we've discussed the end-times and diverse topics regarding suicide, euthanasia, hell.

The Larson team has increased by one - welcome, David Mattson! His news is that he has a job at McDonald's - is in training at the one by Wal-Mart in Fruitland but will eventually be working at the new one on Tilghmann and Rt. 50. Congratulations, David! David Mattson is our newest addition to our team and he's taken us in stride, even at our rowdiest!

Inge's parents arrived Monday, May 5, for a 2-week visit and then they all flew to Florida to vacation with 2 of her sisters and their spouses. Continue to pray for Inge's health to be fully restored. Also, Pete has a new mode of transportation - a scooter - so he and Estrella will be saving big bucks while the rest of us fill our tanks multiple times to their once!!

Bill Digby recently participated in a Civil War demonstration at Salisbury Christian School with the lantern he made. Talk to Bill because I probably didn't explain it right!!

Gretchen traveled to Dillon, S.C. for Perdue again for a few days, leaving Sunday, May 4th. She got home in time to pack again and head for Pittsburgh to help move her parents to a retirement village. Please keep that transition in prayer.

Clare continues to battle health issues - 'tis the season for allergies- and children with behavioral issues in the classroom.

Donna and even Craig, in private school, are also dealing with children with behavioral issues. We need to keep our teachers in prayer - school is a whole different atmosphere today than when we attended.

Melody is feeling the pinch of doing the work of 2 while her employer tries to fill the position left vacant at Lorch.

Leonard spent a night in the E.R. in a diabetic coma last month. Jadean had found him in the house and called 911. He's better for which we give God all the praise! Jadean has been under the weather, too.

### **Mattson Team**

We have been reading the book of John, looking for truths and insights for our daily living and gaining a deeper understanding of Jesus' life here on earth as He points us to our Father in Heaven. We enjoy having a good laugh together as well as supporting each other through the difficult times God allows in our lives. We have shared God's commission to walk alongside each other with love.

This past week we looked at His very hard sayings in Chapter 6:26-60 regarding the 'Bread of Life'. We also used this passage as an opportunity to consider some of the different understandings regarding the church ordinance we call "The Lord's Supper". We are excited about how the Holy Spirit is working at SonLife and in our personal world.

**Tom** spent a week in Baltimore erecting a new shed for his parents and also had opportunity to be with his son, Cameron. According to Tom, his father has been in the "dying process for years", but recently it seems his dad got "tired of waiting to die" and has found a newfound enjoyment for life. We did get a laugh out of Tom's description of the situation. **Rose**



*The half-hour Church Chat is held after refreshments on the first Sunday of each month. At the June Church Chat (left) Rose Merryweather, Rachel Alexander, Rhonda Lenehan, Lee Still and Bob Still. In the front row below are Katy Bishop, Dan Seman, and Gilda Wise. Others behind them include Maria Waller, Scottie Glasgow, Carol Franz, Gretchen Kessner, Melody Wood and Jadean Watkinson.*



continues to be busy nurturing both children and their parents at Just Children Daycare Center along with running the “ship” at home for her family. Nathan won an award recently for a science project at school that he and Tom created – a pressure activated heating pad to put in dog beds!

**Rachel** continues to be busy with students and grades and is very happy that MSA testing has been completed. She reports feeling very blessed with a sense of real accomplishment at having completed her work on the school's yearbook staff. Summer plans include working as a teacher's assistant for one month at Wor-Wic's Summer Enrichment Program.

**Wookie** continues to pursue insurance sales with AFLAC along with a newly discovered passion for mangosteen juice. Ask him about Xango if you want to know more about it. If you've ever observed him with his young nephew, Noah, you'll soon have an appreciation for what an awesome uncle he is. His mother is currently in rehab at Deer's Head after a long season of illness.

**Bob** is quiet, yet when God gives him pearls of wisdom for us, we all listen. He begins his sharing time with the statement: “That woman God gave me . . . “ and proceeds to have us all in hysterical laughing with his comments about the latest thing she has or hasn't done for him. **Lee's** learning curve has been tedious and exhausting with her new accounting job with a non-profit ministry out of Crisfield. And yet this is where God has her right now. Please continue to uphold in prayer “It Takes A Village Organization” down in Crisfield.

**Daniel**, is in the market for a position with a future and he has a new “friend” that looks like there might be a future together there. Only time will tell.

As for me, **Christina**, let me tell you that I delight in God's gift of two new lives that will be part of our family this fall. I am busy encouraging and reminding my adult children that everything is in “His” timing. Even as I watch my father losing his health to newly diagnosed cancer as well as losing my mother to the heart breaking disease of Alzheimer's. So much is out of our control and yet He has it all in control. It is a true blessing to walk alongside my brothers and sisters on Monday nights.

## **Wise Team**

The Wise Team has been studying the book of Romans. We are enjoying taking a turn leading a discussion of each chapter for those who would like to “take their turn”. Each of us learns more as we investigate and prepare and then we also learn from one another's preparation. We enjoy our weekly time together and appreciate the love and support offered to one another. Why not come and join us??

## **BUD\$ group involves young girls**

BUDS is a ministry to young girls FROM Jesus Christ THROUGH Rhonda Lenehan. The mission is to build relationships and mentor girls ages 10-15.

Since June 2006 we have been meeting on the first Monday (give or take) of the month. We have been studying two books, alternating each month. Last month we read the last chapter in the girls' favorite, *For Young Women Only* by Shaunti Feldhahn and Lisa A. Rice. It explored God's design for boys, how they are programmed to think, and what that means for us as girls. Each time we studied this book the girls were more attentive than usual. We all learned a lot from it!

This month we will cover the next-to-the-last chapter in our other book, *The Case For Christ, Student Edition* by Lee Strobel and Jane Vogel. It is “a journalist's personal investigation of the evidence for Jesus”. The plain-talk, easy-to-understand explanations to all sorts of wild theories about whether or not Jesus was the long-awaited Jewish Messiah have been very enlightening.

At this age young people need answers to the most basic questions in life. They need a friend that they can trust, and someone who will demonstrate God's unconditional love to them. Rhonda says, I have a passion to be there for them. I don't have all the answers, but I have a very close friend who does. And I have learned that most of mentoring is just showing up and being there.

At each meeting I try to have some kind of activity. April's was especially fun for me. I introduced the girls to the wonders of Noxema and peel-off facial masks. It was so cool and they loved it. We discussed the importance of daily facial cleansing. Some activities we have done in the past include hammering nails into wooden boards, going to the TCBY, having marshmallows around the campfire in my side yard and visiting the pet store. Each month is exciting for me because I ask the Lord to provide everything--the energy, time, ideas, finances--and each month He does, just like He promises in His word. I love how faithful God is. I cannot wait to see what God leads us to next.

If you know someone who would like to be involved in our group, give Rhonda a yell at 410-546-2634. Caitlin, Stacy and Katherine would love to have you with them. Lastly, please remember us in your prayers.

### **Promise Keepers**

This year's theme is "Manhood '08- Let the Truth be Told!" Plans are being made by several men in the church to attend this conference in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2008 (this includes travel time. The actual conference is from Friday evening through Saturday afternoon).

"The "Manhood '08" program is aimed at equipping men to get a handle on their life and mission, amidst a shifting culture that is sometimes outright hostile. Promise Keepers intends to deliver the message that a real man loves God more than anything else and is willing to progressively receive his help in becoming more like Jesus in how he thinks, lives, and relates to others this side of heaven. So, how are you doing in your daily walk? *Are you responding in the Spirit or in the flesh?*"

See Pete Frost if you are interested. Tickets are on sale for \$75 each until the end of June. Travel and hotel costs will depend on number attending.

### **Report from the Ukraine**

#### **Peipon's talk about their ministry in eastern Europe**

"It's the first of May. Most of the world outside the USA celebrates International Workers Day. As a kid, I remember watching on the evening news parades of missiles and tanks being driven through Red Square in Moscow. The military parades are gone in the Ukraine, but there are smaller rallies and marches involving the members of the Communist Party. Red flags with the familiar hammer and sickle emblem are waved by aging participants increasingly fewer in number.

"Yes, the numbers of supporters are decreasing but the legacy of the Soviet era lingers on in the attitudes of the people towards the purpose of government, the value of human life and the bureaucracy of decision-making and services for the people. Although the people clearly have access to more materially, they are still imprisoned by the system which makes it extremely difficult to "get ahead" without being involved in corruption.

"This bureaucracy is quite evident in the medical system. What is needed most is for God to raise up Christian health care professionals who have been transformed by God's grace to apply Biblical principles to the care of patients, to reach out to their non-believing colleagues and with courage begin to change how the system functions.

"Please pray for God to provide those Ukrainian physicians with whom we can partner and

disciple. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are indeed few. Pray for God to transform the hearts of those in attendance at a large medical conference at the end of May where Jim will give the keynote address entitled: "Medical Care: A Biblical Perspective.

"Finally, we thank God for your continued and sacrificial support of God's work through us and the Ukraine Medical Outreach." - Jim and Marianna Peipon

You may contact the Peipons through International Faith Initiatives, Inc., 5592 Pinecrest Circle, Noblesville, IN 46062.

## **5-Finger Prayer**

This is so neat. I had never heard this before. This is beautiful - and it is surely worth making the 5 finger prayer a part of our lives.

1. **Your thumb** is nearest you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a 'sweet duty.'
2. The **next finger** is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.
3. The **next finger** is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.
4. The **fourth finger** is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.
5. And lastly comes our **little finger** - the smallest finger of all which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, 'The least shall be the greatest among you.' Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

## **This is your newsletter...item deadline July 3rd**

This is your chance to tell the rest of the church about others in the church and yourself. Your own spiritual insights are welcome also. E-mail info and photos to Ann Wiseman at Bdenver234@comcast.net or by giving her the information at church.