

# The Staff

*The newsletter of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd*

October 2007

**Our Mission: To equip God's people for ministry with a vision to share God's Word**



The little boy liked to count with the chimes on the grandfather clock. One day at noon, he was counting 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, ... then something happened. The clock didn't stop but continued to chime... 13, 14, 15, 16... The boy jumped to his feet and ran into the kitchen, shouting, "Mom! It's later than it's ever been before!"

How true! It has been 490 years since Martin Luther posted his ninety-five theses on the Wittenburg church door. His reformation movement brought the church back to its Gospel roots and sound Biblical teaching. But much has changed since that time, especially on the American religious scene.

Hanna Rosin, writing for the *Washington Post*, portrayed the current condition of American religion as nothing less than the creation of a God that matches the devotee's desired self-image and helps him to cope in this world.

Anything in the world of religion is used and the ingredients are readily available in the "personal spirituality" section of your local bookstore. Where once we were identified by the term "Judeo-Christian" now it looks like "Psycho-Buddist-Judeo-Christian Age."

The underlying principle of this concoction is the discovery of "the God within." As one person put it to me, "That's why we need God. Because we are

## The Reformation Revisited

God." People now are in the process of defining themselves. They would say to us, "All your life they told you that God created you. Well, the new reality is that you created God."

There is of course a new "church" to match the new piety. For instance, a group gathers around a tape to listen to someone else's "conversation with God." But what about the historic Church? The Church of Scripture, Creed, and the Confessions? The Church of baptismal regeneration? The Church that gathers around Word and Sacrament. The Church that proclaims the one item that has no place in the current religious agenda, "The Lord's death until he comes?"

Hanna Rosin put it this way, "Churches that thrive do so by trying to tune into this rootless questing and harness it, as advertisers tried to co-opt the 60's counterculture. In a recent survey, according to Barna, six out of ten pastors described their churches as "seeker sensitive," meaning that they are open to those who are still looking and are not yet entrenched in any belief. For many churches, surviving means adopting some of the drifters' lingo. These days, the strictest evangelical church overflows with twelve-step classes. Hidebound institutions bubble with self-help."

To achieve success in that kind of enterprise is to fail as a church. It is trading reverence to God and his Word for a supposed relevance to the culture. Above all, it's thinly disguised unbelief. Christ has promised to build and preserve his Church.

**Continued on next page**

## Continued from previous page – Reformation

To think that our devices, strategies, plans, and programs can do what Christ has promise to do, or to give him a helping hand, is infidelity of the highest order. It's not faith active in love.

The issue is not whether we meet people where they are, but with what we meet them. Is it the risen, crucified Jesus in his mandated Word and Sacraments? Or the self-reflection of the "seeker?"

This is not the first time that the Church has found herself surrounded by an alien culture. In fact, it has always found herself in the reality. The Reformation Gospel highlights that truth. We are truly strangers and pilgrims here on earth.

We are and have been equipped with the Truth and that Truth is Jesus Christ is Lord! He has come into this world in order to save sinners. Salvation is his to give through faith, not of works lest anyone should boast! Our Sovereign Lord does indeed still live and rule in grace and truth and to deny that is to serve another master.



# Transformation and Renewal in Ministry

**(T.R.I.M.)** Submitted by Beth Meyer

*“Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain of wheat; but if it dies, it brings a good harvest.” John 12:24*

You may be thinking to yourself, “What does John 12:24 have to do with TRIM?” Well, when you think about it, John 12:24 has everything to do with the “bottom line” of what TRIM is really about. You see, we do all we can do throughout our lives to live and not die. Many, many people fear death. God however, says we must die in order to live.

As stated: “Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain of wheat; but if it dies, it brings a good harvest.” John 12:24. When you sow a seed, it must die in the ground before it can grow. What we, as humans, see as the ultimate tragedy, God sees as the ultimate triumph. Therefore, when someone dies in Christ, it's not a time for despair, but rather a time of trust. For the seed buried in the earth will blossom in Heaven.

Back to your original question: “What does John 12:24 have to do with TRIM?” The statistics are rather alarming:

- ❖ 155,000 people die each day
- ❖ 2 out of 3 are not Christians
- ❖ **Therefore, 100,000 people die each day Unsaved!**

100,000 people – 100,000 seeds not buried in the ground to blossom in Heaven. So what does this mean for me? It means we all have work to do. As God's missionaries here on earth, we too need to plant seeds. We need to plant the seed of Christ and His Saving Grace. We need to plant the seed of the Good News of salvation and forgiveness in a world that does everything in its power to live for today because it does not see a hope for tomorrow.

I know God's command to “go out into the world...” seems daunting at times. But it doesn't need to be that way. With a good plan in place and many, many hands helping to carry out God's command within that plan, the burden will be light. In fact, as we do God's work in Christ, there can only be joy and celebration. It's not really “work” at all. We plant the seed, God harvests the crop.

**Continued on next page**

**Continued from previous page – TRIM**

**What can I do?** The answer is easy: attend the TRIM planning event.

**November 2, 2007 7:30 pm – 10:00 PM**  
**November 3, 2007 8:30 am – 4:00 PM**

We will spend a great deal of time working together. But, with many hands, many ideas, and much help, the work will seem easy. In fact we know it will be a time to work, but more importantly it will be a time to rejoice and celebrate what we can do as God's missionaries.

Just think: between the time you read this and the time we meet on November 2<sup>nd</sup> approximately 3,300,000 people will have died unsaved. What a

harvest God can have – how many more people can blossom in heaven, if only we do what God intends!!

**Child care will be provided on both days.**  
**Snacks provided on Friday evening.**  
**Breakfast and lunch served on Saturday.**

## **Children of Amandla Crossings**

### **Say “Thank You”**



The children of Amandla Crossings had a wonderful day of shopping for school clothes thanks to your generosity. With very little notice, we raised **\$300** for them to purchase clothes

and accessories for their first day of school. These children rarely get new clothes, so this day was VERY SPECIAL to them. Thank you again!

*Submitted by Paulette Hacker, Chairman  
Missions Committee*



### **Amandla Crossings Need Diapers**

The diaper drive for the babies of Amandla Crossings is continuing through October.

The mothers of Amandla Crossings are moms who were homeless. They are learning to become better moms, to manage their finances, and are

getting the skills they need to get a job. They are on a limited income and are in need of diapers, sizes 4–6 for their babies. Please deposit the diapers (partially used packages are welcome) in the playpen in the Fellowship Hall.

Please help these moms and their babies!

*Submitted by Paulette Hacker, Chairman  
Missions Committee*



## Grow in the Grace of Giving

In the first verse of the hymn “We Give You But Your Own,” we sing, “We give You but Your own In any gifts we bring; All that we have is Yours alone, A trust from You, our King.”

It is likely that we have sung this hymn many times without realizing the implication of the words. Through faith, we recognize that all we are and all we have come as gifts from our gracious Heavenly Father. We recognize that God owns everything and that we have nothing, except as stewards of God. We give to show our gratitude to God for His gifts to us. Our love and gratitude compel us to grow in our giving.

As we grow in the grace of giving, we can find four different levels of giving:

1. At the first level of giving, people give only a token amount, if anything at all. The amount given represents the excess or left-over amounts after everything else is taken care of. Often times, people at this level give to imitate others because they see other people giving. This giving is normally not associated with faith.
2. The next level of giving could be referred to as self-interest giving. People see the church as important so they give to keep the doors open. The attitude toward giving could be compared to paying dues. Giving

fulfills a sense of obligation. The self-interest giver sees little connection between faith in God and what he does with his money. Giving is from the left-overs rather than from the top.

3. The next level of giving could be referred to as a level of spiritual gratitude. At this stage, a person recognizes how God has freely given him salvation through His Son Jesus Who went to the Cross for his sins. Out of thanksgiving for what Jesus has done, there is a response of gratitude. Jesus has paid the penalty of sin so that we can be made right with God. When someone understands what Jesus did on the cross, there is joy in giving. Giving at this level stops focusing on the church budget and becomes a personal surrender of one’s life and resources. People at this level give regular and proportionate amounts of their incomes.
4. The fourth level of giving is at such a high level of stewardship that few people reach it. At this level, a person gives more than he can afford and far more than his share. The final level is the level of sacrificial giving.

May God grant us loving and giving hearts so we can worship and praise our Heavenly Father as we grow in the levels of our giving.

Pat Pryor  
Stewardship Committee



I would like to thank all of you for your thoughts and prayers as I continue

to go through treatments for breast cancer. It was not something I wanted to go through but knowing that my family here at Good Shepherd was praying for me made it easier

and less frightening. The prognosis is good and I am on my way to a full recovery. I couldn't have done it without all of you. Thank you so much for your support.

*Kathy Hogan*

### Adult Coffee Hour News

On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, we began our 6<sup>th</sup> year of the Adult Breakfast Club. (Also know as the coffee hour for adults while the kids are in Sunday School.) Yes, it has been six years. We started in the kitchen area, moved to the fellowship hall, and this year we move to the Education Wing.

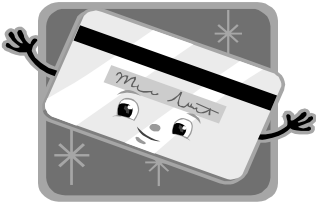
The Coffee hour has always been about fellowship; a place for adults to meet and greet. We call it the adult breakfast club because we have always had a friendly atmosphere. To an outsider looking in, we may seem like old friends. The truth is, many of us did not know each other until we started spending a little time together on Sunday morning. Not everyone stays for an hour; many go off to the variety of adult classes offered through out the year. Not everyone comes every week; hectic schedules may make it necessary to multi task while the kids are in Sunday School. Just know, that we are here, and that new faces are always made welcome. We have 4 basic rules:

- 1- We are a KID FREE ZONE: for practical reasons, conversation has always flowed more easily on adult topics with no children present. Also, children and teens should be in class.
- 2- We are a self-supporting ministry. There is a "free will" basket for donations. All money is used to support the coffee club with purchase of supplies.
- 3- Parents, feed your children at home: There is nothing more heartbreaking than a child who comes in and says "I'm hungry." How can we hand something to one child to eat, and not hand it to others? Why is it okay for one child and not the rest? We plan our supplies for the adults' use and any leftovers are put out at the end for the children to take.
- 4- Volunteers make us happen by committing to a small part of the task. A sign up sheet is left out for you to add your name, phone #, and e-mail address. Volunteers are contacted and asked to help on certain days with a task you can commit to. More volunteers means less work for everyone.

**So, if you are relatively new to the church or just a parent trying to do the right thing for their child with Sunday School, please feel free to join us. I hope you will consider this an invitation to join us between 9:15 and 10:15 am on Sunday mornings in the Education Wing.**



I want to add my voice to support the FOOD CERTIFICATE-GIFT CARD PROGRAM.



I have been using this program to purchase prepaid ShopRite gift cards for several years now. I buy between \$450.00 - and \$500.00 every month. This seems like a lot, but not really, a family of four easily spends that in a month on groceries. The beauty of this program is that I am doing something that supports the church, and getting dollar for dollar value on everything I spend. The first month I started using this program, I gave Faith Caban a check for \$150.00 on the 15th of January. Two or three weeks later, I picked up that same amount in gift cards. I immediately used them up the first two weeks of February when doing my grocery shopping. On Feb. 15, I sent Faith a check for \$250.00. And so, little by little, my monthly amount grew. For several years I stayed level at \$400.00 a month, until recently I increased it again. I am being detailed in my explanation so you will see how easy it is to become a participant and to increase the amount of your purchase.

The up side is you get dollar for dollar value. Like the ShopRite ads for their charge card used to say, "It's for people who eat." What is the down side? The food certificate account has the use of your money for two or three weeks before you actually pick up your cards. They use the money to buy in bulk and get a 5% discount. This total 5% is the profit deposited into the church building fund account.

Before starting this program I realized my hesitation: "If I buy food certificates by check for use in the grocery store, I will lose the credit card rebate for that amount of money I was getting." Is that what is making you hesitate? Do the math: 1% of \$500.00 a month is \$5.00 5% is \$25.00. So, I am giving up \$5.00 every month to give the building fund \$25.00. \$25.00 a month, in the course of a year, is \$300.00 I would not otherwise have been able to contribute to the building fund. If you are lucky enough to have a credit card program that still rebates you 2% of purchases, the church will still receive so much more than tha from your participation in this plan. It is one more small way

we can contribute to God's ministry while living our busy lives and taking care of our families.

*Submitted by Eileen Sabino-Loughman*



Words cannot describe the "Women of Faith" experience ... it is SO much more than words...

Try to imagine, if you can, 17,000+ women praising God at one time, in one place, filling up an entire ice-hockey arena with songs, cheers, laughter, tears and prayer ... what an AWESOME experience!

It never fails to amaze me how inspiring the Women of Faith conference is. It never gets "old." I believe I've attended every conference since it's become available to women in the TriState area, and I definitely intend to continue!

Every year, the theme of the conference changes – this year, it was Amazing Freedom. And "freedom" is definitely what the conference was all about – "freedom" to follow our dreams, "freedom" from the chains that bind us (be they physical, mental or spiritual), "freedom" to express ourselves and be daughters of the King in this world, the incredibly liberating "freedom" to know we will inherit God's kingdom – I'm sure I've missed a few, but you get the idea!

We certainly pack a lot into two days, and while it is a "roller-coaster" emotional ride with ups and downs and twists and turns, it is ALWAYS exhilarating! You can "feel" God in this place, whether it be through the speakers, the drama or the songs, and how could you not appreciate those who graced us this year – Sheila Walsh, Patsy Clairmont, Nicole Johnson, Marilyn Meberg, Luci Swindoll, newcomer Anita Renfroe (Wasn't she hilarious!), Carol Kent, Sandi Patti, Nichole Nordeman, Mandisa and the Women of Faith singers. And, of course, let's not forget a Women of Faith "first" this year – a male speaker, Dr. Henry Cloud, who we heard at the Friday intensive session.

**Continued on next page**

**Continued from previous page – Women of Faith**

It is especially wonderful to share this incredible experience with my Good Shepherd sisters and their family/friends... and, while we may not all sit together we do all SHARE together... and we girls just love to “share,” don’t we? Thank God we’re “free” to do so!

In His Love,  
Mary Artache



**Prayers of the people, by the people,  
and for the people**

As Christians, we believe in the power of prayer. As members of Good Shepherd, we have a variety of ways to partner with other members of our church in prayer.

**Service Prayer Request Sheet**

Next to the doors to the sanctuary, there is a stand with a “Prayer Request Sheet.” If you have special prayers that you would like to be made during the Sunday morning church service, fill in the appropriate information before the service.

**Prayer Chain**

For many years, numerous members of Good Shepherd have been a member of our Prayer Chain. These people pray regularly for the members of Good Shepherd, their families and their friends who have special needs or special causes for celebration. Examples that have recently been on the Prayer Chain are one member’s brother who was in an accident, or for another member who had become engaged. Prayer requests get passed along to all members of the Prayer Chain and all involved pray

for these people in their daily prayers.

If you, a family member or friend has a special need and would like to be put on the Prayer Chain, please call the Church Office (732) 679-8883 or Alma Meyer (732) 656-1518.

We distribute the prayer requests via telephone, E-mail and now via text messaging to your cell phone.

If you would like to join your brothers and sisters in prayer as part of the Prayer Chain, you can join by calling the Office or sending an E-mail to [office@lc-goodshepherd.org](mailto:office@lc-goodshepherd.org). To receive prayer requests as a text message on your cell phone, send a text message to the email address [office@lc-goodshepherd.org](mailto:office@lc-goodshepherd.org) indicating your name and that you want to join the Prayer Chain. Unless you indicate otherwise, the office will only use your text number to send Prayer Chain notices.

**Prayer Partners**

Our “Prayer Partners” group is not meeting at this time. If you would like to find out more about “Prayer Partners,” - please see Laurie Burke.

**Private Prayers After Each Service**

Our private prayer time after all of the services has received wonderful words of support and help. These prayers are with the Deacons, and the private prayer time can also include “Laying on of Hands” and “Anointing with oil” as a mark of our need for help. Just come up to the Altar after any service and see the Deacon that is scheduled for this.

**NEW!**  
Receive Prayer  
Requests By Text  
Message On Your Cell  
Phone!

## BOOK CLUB AND DISCUSSION GROUP

We are meeting on Tuesday,



**November 13  
@7:30pm, in  
the church  
library, to  
discuss:**

**Ever After** by  
Karen Kingsbury

In *Ever After*, bestselling author Karen Kingsbury has created a moving sequel to *Even Now*. The book opens as Emily Anderson, now twenty years old, attends college on a soccer scholarship. Through an off-campus job at Fort Lewis, Emily meets a young Army reservist, Justin Baker. Their love—deep, emotional, and built on the foundation of a shared faith—blossoms into plans for marriage. Even Emily's parents, Lauren Gibbs and Shane Galanter, draw inspiration from this shining young relationship.

But Shane and Lauren are being tested as they themselves make wedding plans. Although Shane works as a Top Gun instructor, Lauren still strongly opposes the war in Iraq. As Lauren and Shane struggle to breach the gulf between them, Lauren decides that the task is impossible. She returns to her job as a war correspondent in Afghanistan.

Emily must say goodbye to Justin as he goes off to serve in Iraq. Then tragedy changes everything. Can Lauren and Shane do what they think is impossible—set aside their opposing views so that God's love can win no matter how great the odds?

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at [Junedh1@aol.com](mailto:Junedh1@aol.com) or call me at (732)840-6894.

Happy Reading!!

*June Hullings*

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## Something of Interest?



*How will your marriage be remembered?*

Marriage is defined by memories. They can be memories of joy and fulfillment or pain and heartbreak. It all depends on how well you apply the principles that make marriage thrive. For thirty years, the **Weekend to Remember** conference has been helping couples create the kind of memories that build a healthy marriage. Remember your marriage. Remember this weekend.

**Weekend to Remember** is a weekend marriage conference that teaches God's design for marriage and family. The environment is fun, non-threatening, and sometimes hilarious. And it's a wonderful time for couples to refresh good marriages or heal troubled ones. There are over 150 conferences in cities all across the U.S. each year. Registration is open to individuals, couples, or groups. Whether you're engaged, newlywed, or remarried, enrich your marriage and begin a godly legacy for your family by attending a conference in a city near you. Or plan a memorable getaway to a destination of your choosing. [www.familylife.com/conferences/wtr\\_conf.asp](http://www.familylife.com/conferences/wtr_conf.asp)

November 16-18 in Philly  
November 30-Dec 2 in Philly



## My Freedom

By Amber Brown, Coordinator of Christian Education

I had the fantastic experience of recently attending my seventh *Women of Faith* conference. The theme this year was *Amazing Freedom* and we focused on learning to find our freedom in Christ, regardless of our issues, circumstances or our past. This hit close to home with me, because as humans, it is in our nature to hold on to things, whether they uplift us or deplete us. We hold on to memories that bring smiles to our faces and joy to our hearts and we hold on to pain, anger and sorrow that can be so severe it debilitates us. We have had times in our lives when we experienced shame, desperation, despair, isolation, heartache, brokenness...and as we move through our lives, we can learn to overcome these issues, or grab desperately at them and allow them to define us. Sometimes we cling on to these emotions as though they will make us feel better when, in actuality, they make us feel worse. And when we allow this emotional baggage to consume and overrun our lives, we do not allow the healing work of Christ's grace and mercy to work within us. Instead, we build a wall around our souls and we are held captive by dark, diminishing feelings that we continue to justify by saying things like... "It serves him right that I haven't talked to him in twenty years. Look what he did to me!"...or... "How can I possibly forgive her? What she did is unforgivable!"...or... "Everything seems to go wrong for me and I have done horrible things my whole life...maybe I deserve it." We have all experienced some type of this inner dialogue as we struggle with the issue of forgiveness, but what we neglect to realize is that forgiveness does not excuse the sin of the forgiven- it just sets the forgiver free. And praise be to God that He does not have the same inner monologue... "he hasn't

talked to me in twenty years"... "what she did is unforgivable"... "maybe they deserve it..." Yikes! Where would we be then?

I, myself, am guilty of emotional baggage. I hold on to my own secrets and my own shame, some of which I have carried around like a boulder for decades (you'd think I'd have great biceps by now for lugging all that weight around for so long) and some pain which I am working on overcoming right now. As Christians, we find that sometimes we hide our pain because we want to be that bright and shining example of Christianity to those around us. You know what I mean- that sweet, perfect, happy, never-had-a-problem Christian we try to be in order to lead others to Christ. But I am here to tell you, my friends, that trying to fit the mold of a 'perfect Christian' is not only an impossibility, it's a lie...and who would want to lead others to Christ by living a lie? It has taken me far too long to grasp this.

Even though I continue to struggle with pain and heartache in my own life, one thing I have truly found freedom in is living life with a disabled child. You may only know my son, Eric, as that cute little blond boy in the noisy red wheel chair, so I shall condense the past 9 ½ years of his life into the next few paragraphs. I have learned there is no shame in having a disabled child, nay, there is only pride, but it has taken me years to overcome the fact that I can't "fix him." You may be surprised to know this about me, but I am a bit of a perfectionist (\*GASP\*) and while this has helped me accomplish many-a-thing along life's way, it also hinders me because I grapple with the unearthly desire to fix all that is broken, including myself and Eric. I believe that my very discovery of Christ's freedom is one of the reasons Eric was given to me.

When Eric was born, Steve and I never knew that anything was 'wrong' with him. I had a normal pregnancy, regular check ups, healthy cravings (what's wrong with Fritos and milk?) and a healthy labor and delivery. The only notable thing upon Eric's birth was that his feet were turned inward.

**Continued on next page**

## Continued from previous page – My Freedom

We were told that it was probably because of his positioning in utero and to see a pediatric orthopedist for evaluation for clubbed feet. This we did when Eric was three days old, and he was serial casted for clubbed feet for the next several months. Although this was somewhat of a concern, we knew we caught it early and that it was ‘fixable’ (there’s that buzz word that I thrive on...).

However, as Eric approached his third month of life, we noticed that he was not ‘tracking’- what developmental specialists refer to when a baby is unable to follow an object with his eyes. This, of course led to visits to ophthalmologists, more specialists, testing, neurologists, MRI’s and more neurologists because we didn’t like what the first five specialists had said. Eventually, it was determined that Eric’s brain had stopped developing at about five months gestation and no one knew why. Officially there was no diagnosis as there was no named disease that caused this, so we were told he had ‘cerebral atrophy.’ We were told that he probably would not walk or talk or be able to care for himself and that he would never ‘get better’. (In retrospect, I snicker at the phrase ‘he won’t get better’ because there is almost nothing *better* than when Eric laughs out loud at the most inopportune moment during one of Pastor’s sermons! Who else could get away with that than the cute blond kid in the red wheel chair in the fifth row...) ☺

As Steve and I began to cope with the realization that we would be changing Eric’s diapers, literally until the day we die, and as we learned to deal with the seizures that have ravaged his brain and learn to feed him through a tube in his tummy because he can’t eat and drink any more, we accepted the fact that we really are blessed to have been given Eric to care for on this earth. We were happy to move through life this way, and even welcomed our second son, AJ, into our lives. We were jolted out of our complacency the night we rushed Eric to the hospital for the second time in 24 hours because we could not stop his seizures. It was while we were in the hospital that we received the results from a recent MRI and were told that Eric’s

brain is deteriorating because he has ‘some type of neurodegenerative disease’ and he would continue to get progressively worse until he would meet the Lord. The doctors were unable to determine if this would take five or twenty years to occur, but that it would, in fact happen. Steve and I dealt with this news in different ways. For me, my perfectionism turned to negativism and I spent the next several years trying to understand God’s Will in this, trying desperately to make up for the wrong in my past, trying to ‘fix it all’ and struggling to comprehend ‘why me’. Well, why not me? Eventually, I went to the Lord and wept on His chest as I realized that I had no control over *my* life, much less over Eric’s life and that nothing I have done, past or present, was the reason why this ‘happened to me’. I was chosen for this...chosen to be Eric’s mommy, chosen to live the struggle, chosen to share it now so that you could all know of my freedom.

Knowing that you may outlive your child is almost an impossible pain to bear as a parent. Notice that I state, almost... I have learned to hold on to the truths of God’s Word so when I feel like I can’t do it anymore I hold close to my heart that “*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*” (Phil 4:13) and that “*all things are possible with God*” (Mark 9:23) and “*those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength*” (Isaiah 40:31) and “*let us press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God called me heavenward in Christ Jesus*” (Phil 3:14) and “*let us run the race with perseverance...*” (Heb 12:1). If Eric should leave this world before me, there is such peace in knowing that he will greet me at the Pearly Gates, running toward me and proclaiming “I am so happy you are here. Come see what fun we’re having with Jesus!” I cannot wait to hear those first words out of his mouth. I have also learned that there is no doctor on the face of this earth that can out diagnose the miracles of the Creator and we see evidence of His mercy and grace every day. Eric has proven every doctor wrong and has begun to take independent steps! He has gotten so skilled at this that he can walk up to 20 feet on his own.

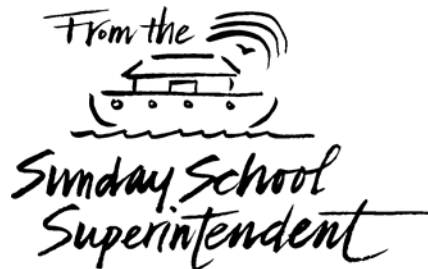
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## Continued from previous page – My Freedom

Eric is, literally, a walking testimony to the greatness of our God.

I am not the only one dealing with pain in my life. We all have our stories, tales and woes. We all have our burdens, sorrows and trials. But do we all live in freedom? Let us remember, that whatever happens this side of Heaven, we make choices in how we live. Will you choose the bondage of your circumstances or will you embrace the freedom that comes in living for Jesus? This is not an easy task to do, I know, but once you come into that freedom the rest is so much easier to handle. It doesn't make life's burdens preventable, just possible.

I can not begin to tell you the freedom I felt the day I let go of Eric. You see, the Lord so gently reminded me that, even though I care for Eric in this world, he does not belong to me. Eric belongs to the Lord. He is named and claimed as a child of the Living Lord and every pain and hurt I feel and every tear I have shed because I know I am losing my son, was already felt for me when God sent His own son to Calvary. What relief I felt in the freedom of knowing there is nothing I can do to 'fix' Eric because he is already fixed and made whole in Christ. And whether the Lord chooses the heal him in this world still has nothing to do with me...no amount of begging, pleading or deal making can change the Will of the Creator of the Universe, because it's not about me and it's not about Eric...it's about Him- HIS blood, HIS sacrifice, HIS love and HIS promises...whew, there is such freedom in that! Freedom was won for us on the Cross. Let's live it in our lives today.



A big Thank You to all who helped make Rally Day a success. I've gotten some great feedback--on what went well and how we can tweak it to make Rally Day even better next year. Thanks to all who contributed to the free will offering. We raised \$635.00 to help defray the cost of this years' materials.

October is a busy month. The Confirmation I retreat is October 5-7. Opening in the Sanctuary will be October 14th, the second Sunday of the month. It is also is also Parent Sunday in the 6th Grade class. Did you know that the first book in the Bible, Genesis, means "Beginning?" Our lessons to be covered in Sunday School this month can be found in the Book of Genesis.

- October 7th - Joseph's Troubles
- October 14th - Joseph Saves Egypt
- October 21st - Joseph Forgives
- October 28th - The Birth of Moses

All Sunday School teachers please remember, the October 9th meeting at church at 7:30 PM in the resource room.

Submitted by Laurie Burke

# FROM THE ALLEYS



The leaves are not the only things falling--so are the pins (for some of us anyway.)

We're back and the cast of characters is pretty much the same with only a few changes (mainly in this year's team names.) First off--a big welcome to Lionell Matthews, Julio and Mary Artache's son-in-law, who just joined their team (aka-The Out-laws.) Their former partner, Tom Rutan has teamed up with Bill and Laurie Burke (aka Beer Frame.) Tara Lange, Tony Onorato and Jon Artache are now the Discreet Indians; Norm Sigmund, Sandy and Bob Shipley--Triple X; Marie Bergfeldt, Carol and Bob Hahl--the Pin Heads; Beth Meyer and Doreen and Ron Humiston--the Salty Crabs; Jim Hatcliffe, Brigitte Meitzner, and Dean Olson--Lucky Strikes. Steve

Weiss, Steve and Danny Onorato liked the name Holy Rollers so much they kept it, as did Paul Jordan, Betty and Don Cousens--Old Goats, and while the team UnStopaBowl has not changed its name- one of its teammates did. Congratulations to Vin Stefanelli and his new bride Beth, and the third member of the team, proud dad, Wayne Kraweic.

Till next month- remember we love visitors -- just bring your cheering voices Monday nights, Strathmore Lanes, Rt.34 Matawan. See you at the alleys!

Submitted by Laurie Burke

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## Developing Your Legacy

### A seminar on Living Wills and Estate Planning

Presented By The Stewardship Committee

Conventional wisdom states: "Nobody gets out of here alive." It's a fact of life, people get sick and all of us eventually will die. We all prepare for these events in our own way. We make healthcare a deciding factor when considering a job offer. We buy life insurance. We buy disability insurance. By making these decisions, we are being stewards of what the Lord has given us. I think it's safe to say that to ignore this responsibility to our family would be irresponsible.

On Saturday, October 13th from 9:00 am till 12:00 pm, Pastor Bill Qualman and Mr. Dave Hildebrandt, New Jersey District Mission and Ministry Advancement Coordinator, will present these topics for the benefit of our congregation and their guests.

Pastor Qualman will present a segment on Living Wills and what matters to take into consideration when preparing one, including who to appoint to make decisions for you in the event that you are incapacitated or unable to make decisions regarding

your continued care. Other issues to be discussed will be your instructions to your family regarding your desires regarding life support, last service requests and the recording of lawyer, insurance and bank information.

Mr. Hildebrandt will present a segment on wills and estate planning. The focus of Dave's segment will be minimizing your taxes and estate costs, preserving the value your estate through estate planning and prudent charitable giving. Other issues to be discussed will be providing for a surviving parent's needs, creating a trust for a minor(s) and nominating Christian guardians for your children.

For more information about this seminar or the presenters, please contact Pastor Qualman, Pat Pryor or Bob Shipley.

Submitted by Bob Shipley

# For Your Information



## Happy Birthday to...

Mitchell Siegler	10/01
Daniel Bergfeldt	10/02
Shawn Reilly	10/03
Jonathan Artache	10/04
Laurie Coletti	10/04
Shauna Cunningham	10/04
Marge Hammarstrom	10/06
Elsa Mottola	10/07
Lori Myers	10/07
Alyssa Kotora	10/09
Elena Pineiro	10/09
Adam Van Handel	10/10
Juliette Lepre	10/10
Ricky Langone	10/11
Priscilla Seesman	10/11
Mary Ellen Brace	10/11
Loretta Dlugosz	10/11
Deborah Reilly	10/12
Steven Brown	10/13
Kyle James Griswold	10/13
Dave Virelles	10/14
Meghan Farrell	10/15
Justin Salzer	10/16
Carly Ferreira	10/16
Paige Ferreira	10/16
Lauren Lepre	10/17
Kevin Lo	10/17
Jung Kim	10/18
Scott Oliva	10/18
Yvonne Siclari	10/20
Anna Mallepalle	10/20
Drew Pfeifer	10/20
Eric Van Fossen	10/20

Billy Bleistein	10/20
JoAnn Shiber	10/20
Justyn Hatcliffe	10/21
Jakob Casey	10/21
Brian Frank	10/21
Jeffrey Brace	10/23
Bill Bleistein	10/24
Danielle Kim	10/25
TerriLynne Shear	10/25
Tyler Drews	10/25
Nicole Stacy	10/26
Taryn McGrane	10/26
Anna Mihalik	10/27
Sabrina Yoniak	10/28
Heather Wilmot	10/29
Pat Pryor	10/29
Brian Lo	10/29
Karen Scanlon	10/29
Alfred Grana	10/30
Adelaide Ebersole	10/31
Steven Onorato	10/31
Dylan Seesman	10/31

## Happy Anniversary to.....

Kurt & Michelle Carlson	10/03
Paul & Cathy Jordan	10/07
Frans & Allison van Riemsdyk	10/09
David & Dale Petersen	10/09
Don & Kathy Cole	10/10
Patricia & David Virelles	10/11
Grace & Yee Wong	10/11
Roy & Barbara Ebersole	10/12
Kevin & Ceil Prenderville	10/15
Sandy & Scott Wolven	10/16
Manny & Pat Beltran	10/17
David & Kathy Schulmeister	10/24

The Staff is published monthly for members and friends of The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.

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Organist Mr. Ed Roynesdal

Music Director  
Mrs. Amber Brown

GS Children's Center  
Director  
Mrs. Lorraine Campo  
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*Those Recovering*

**Rob Maggazu**

*Those in Nursing Homes*

**Emmy Moore** –sister of Katrina Clapsis

**Leela Mallepalle**

**Jean Reynolds**

*Those who are Shut-in*

**Marion Morgan**

**Joan Brenner**

**Irene Inneo**

**Josie Schubert** –mother of Mary Artache

*Those with Other Needs*

**Gunhild Nelson** –mother of Carol Hahl

**Evelyn Kotora**

**Ruth Gunderson** –mother of Lynn Hughes

**Ray Monel** –father of Barbara Di Maggio

**Jake Johnson** –grandson of Pastor & Georgeann

**Gregory Pryor** –brother of Patrick Pryor

**Vincent Siclari, Jr.** –brother of Ed Siclari

**Jan Burkett** –grandmother of Amber Brown and Dani Sloan

**Terry Hayes** –mother of Laurie Burke

**Eric Brown** –son of Amber and Steve

**Dylan Brown** –grandson of Hatcliffes

**Marilyn Evenga** –sister-in-law of Alexis Dill, awaiting liver transplant

**Margaret Wrigley** –suffering with arthritis

**Christine Olewine** –granddaughter of Lyman & Deloris Laub

**Trudy Conway**

*Those Struggling with Cancer*

**Bobby Pate**

**Mino DeMaglie** – Brother-in-law of Laurie and Bill Burke

**Jean Tjornhom** -sister of Marie Bergfeldt

**Laurie Burke**

**Kathy Hogan**

**Alexander Toth** – father-in-law of Jamie Toth

**Gary Kellogg** - father of Kyle Kellogg

**Laurie Troutman** – daughter of Child Care Teacher

**Marie Giacomini** – mother of Bill Burke

**Patch Rose** – brother-in-law of Dave and Marie Bergfeldt

**Peggy DeMarco** – friend of the Kotora Family

**Joseph Spinelli** – friend of Toni & Pat Pryor

**Debbie Pryor** – cousin to Toni & Pat Pryor

**Ed Borkowski** – father of Wayne Borkowski

**Kathy Hill** – friend of Pryors

**Kathi Farrell**

**Ruth Cousens** – mother of Don Cousens

*Those in the Military*

**Chris O'Shea** –nephew of Addie & Les Ebersole

**Chris Hill** –uncle of Stephanie Olson

**Jeff Borkowski**

**Brian Farrell**

**Rob Farrell**

**Dustin Brown**

**Jeff Kotora**

**Guy Kotora**

**John & Annette Kope** –brother and sister-in-law of Maryellen Boggia

**Patrick Galvin** –son-in-law of Ouges

**Joseph Puoplo** –nephew of Clines

**Brian Borkowski** –nephew of the Borkowski's

**Ashley Welsh** –niece of Mary White-Stevens

**Drew Williams** –friend of Hogan's

**Fabian Lopez** –friend of Russell Domis

**Darrin Brown** –co-worker of Beth Meyer

**Matthew Munoz** –friend of Siclari's

**Jon Griswold** –brother-in-law of Heidi Griswold

**Marc Artache** –nephew of Julio & Mary Artache

**Robert Bracero** –nephew of Julio & Mary Artache

**James McCabe** –friend of White-Stevens'

*And our Missionaries :*

**Rev. Chuck and Jeanette Groth in Cambodia**  
LINC – NJ

## **The Groth Report**

### **SEPTEMBER 2007**

#### From the Word

*Turn back to God. Be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins will be forgiven. This promise is for you and your children. It is for everyone our Lord God will choose, no matter where they live. Acts 2:38*

At this time of year the Mekong is a very powerful river. The rainy season brings a surge of water that rushes south. Where the Mekong meets the Tonle Sap an interesting phenomenon occurs. There is so much water rushing down that during rainy season the Tonle Sap River actually changes direction and flows from south to north. When rainy season is over the rushing waters diminish, and the Tonle Sap again flows peacefully from north to south.

This occurrence in Cambodia reminds me of the change of direction the waters of baptism make in the lives of Christians. It is the power that totally changes the course of their lives, but, unlike the Tonle Sap, the change of course is permanent. The waters of baptism impart the Spirit's power to daily put down sinful nature and let new lives patterned after Christ arise.

#### **Current Events**

It was truly a joy when Hannah was born. She is the child of the young couple that we wrote about several months ago. Although local doctors doubted her development, visits at a good clinic in Phnom Penh saw a normally developing and healthy baby. Chuck and I were privileged to talk with these new parents about the best gift they could give their child, baptism and the gift of eternal life it brings. So at a favorite restaurant made from an old boat, Chuck baptized Hannah, and the water and God's Word changed the course of her life forever.

Our life in Cambodia also changed course a bit and also involves water. While we continue our work in Phnom Penh and Battambang we also see developing ministry in the Sihanoukville area. Here we are working with local church leaders to develop English centers that will also be the focus of health education programs, agricultural programs and church outreach. So we have moved to Sihanoukville and enjoying continued ministry there as well as a new life in a beach community. New long-term missionaries, Al and Eileen Turner, whom we know from our time together in Africa, join us. They will be spending seven months here and will be working with

agriculture and health education throughout Cambodia. We have been helping them to get oriented to Cambodia, and they have already met Christian leaders in Phnom Penh, Battambang and Sihanoukville. It is truly exciting to work together to change the course of people's lives through God's Word and human care.

It is always rewarding to work with the young teachers at Open Gate daycare. They are surely ready to learn and change the course of education with new learning and new ideas. This time we worked on Bible accounts for the next four weeks and also had a workshop on making educational materials with low cost materials. It was a change of course for them to see wooden scraps changed into blocks as they sanded. Since building blocks were a new thing to them a fun time ensued as they used the blocks they made in creative ways. What fun to see them so excited to have new educational materials that they had made themselves.

Battambang Sunday School teachers met on our visit there. The new course there was that Pastor Kosal did his first job of translating my teaching into Khmer. His great progress in English surely changed the course of some of our work there since we didn't have to find a translator for this session. We worked on lessons with the children that followed the church Bible readings for the next four Sundays. What a great way to have the course of study there emphasized with both children and adults.

Chuck's Sunday sermon at Battambang challenged people to "look for the lost."

It is exciting to see the ministry there expanding and to count the more than 85 children whose course has truly been changed and are a vital part of the congregation there.

This month is also the time for leadership training at Battambang. This time the course will be on teaching the faith. Focusing on Jesus as the Master Teacher the leaders will learn some effective teaching strategies for both children and adults. Hopefully we will see some change of course in the practice teaching they will be doing as the evaluation for the course.

So tell us. How has the Gospel changed the course of your life this month? What new experiences has God led you to as you endeavor to be "more like Jesus?"

Directed by Him,

Chuck and Jeanette Groth

# Women's Ministry



## Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study group was able to complete three Bible Studies last year. The first study was a Max Lucado book (one of our favorite

authors) called *Traveling Light*. In this study we learned that we are all weary travelers carrying our spiritual loads, i.e. Fear, Worry, and Discontent. As Max walked us through the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, we found out we could release those burdens we were never intended to carry. I believe we all have a newer outlook on "leaving it at the Cross".

The next study we did was *The Power of a Praying Woman* by Stormie Omartian. We all learned to trust in God moment by moment with the concerns of our hearts and discovered the awesome power that prayer releases in our lives.

Finally, we finished up with (go ahead and guess), yes, it was another Max Lucado book (did I mentioned he is our favorite author), *He Chose the Nails*. This powerful book shed much insight as we examined the cross, contemplated its purpose and celebrated its significance. Again Max walked us through the symbols surrounding Christ's crucifixion explained as only he can in his warm, caring style.

I believe if you asked any of the women who attend the Women's Bible Study, they would tell you it has been a wonderful year of growth in our faith, fellowship with each other and a more personal closeness to our God.

The Women's Bible Study would like to invite all women to join us in our Bible Study. We have a very diverse group who attend each week and they are a very lovely group to be around. Besides growing together in our faith walk, they have been a wonderful support to each other. If you are interested in attending the Bible Study or just want

to ask questions, please feel free to contact me at (732) 547-7612. We meet on Monday evenings at 7:00 PM.

Submitted by Jill O'Connor

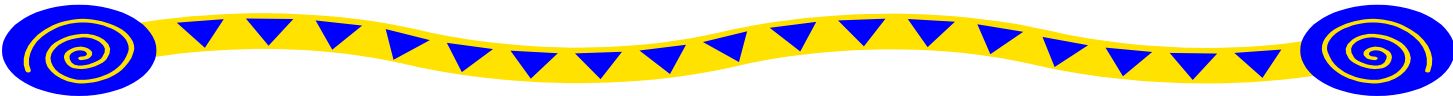
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**Crafters for Christ** will meet the last Friday of each month. Amber is trying to get a Women's Ministry team to come up with ideas of what to do for the upcoming year. If you have any ideas, and would like to be involved, or help coordinate a project, let Amber know.



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"**Fit Him In**" is the aerobics class that is the same Saturday as Market Day pick up. If you are interested in joining this group, we will meet on Sat. October 6<sup>th</sup> @9:15 am. This is a light aerobics class. We follow a DVD program which is very easy and fun to work out to.

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"**PRINCESS RETREAT**" – For those of you who attended last year, you know what a great time we all had. Amber still has a few DVD's, and mugs. If you ordered these items and did not receive them, please let Amber know. Date for the 2008 Princess Retreat will be released soon.

~~~~~  
"**REVOLVE TOUR**" **November 2-3** – Were you one of the 15 teen girls that joined us for this amazing event last November? The REVOLVE TOUR is back again and it's better than ever! With speakers, music and an all star line-up (yes that includes Chad Eastham) this is a trip you don't want to miss! The REVOLVE TOUR is a weekend event for teen girls — a fun, fast-paced, action-packed time when thousands of teens pile into an arena to hear about how much God loves them. The money is due **NO LATER than October 7<sup>th</sup>**. There are scholarships available. Please see Amber Brown for details

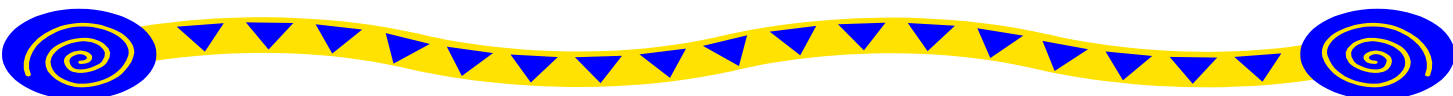


## NEW PHOTO DIRECTORY



Olan Mills will be taking individual and family pictures for our **NEW** photo directory. Photos will be taken Tuesday, October 16 (3:00 – 9:30 PM), Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> (3:00 – 9:30 PM), Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup> (3:00 – 9:30 PM), Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup> (3:00 – 9:30 PM), and Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> (10:00 – 5:00 PM).

Anyone who participates gets a free 8x10 photo, and Church Directory. You can see the proofs immediately, and it takes less than an hour. If you have any questions, please give Marie a call in the office.



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# *Good Shepherd Children's Center*

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## WHAT'S NEW AT SCHOOL

The children have settled into their routines quite nicely. The first few weeks

of school have started off fairly smoothly, which makes me happy because the sooner they settle down, the quicker they will begin to enjoy themselves. October is an exciting month at GSCC. While most of our children will be going on class trips to enjoy all the fall has to offer, pumpkin picking, apple picking, hay rides and farm animals; our younger children will enjoy making and eating special snacks in class, and "pumpkin picking" on the playground.

The firemen will be visiting the school on October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> teaching the children about fire safety. They also let them squirt the hose from the fire truck, and discuss what all the equipment is used for, and the importance of the special equipment they wear when putting out a fire.

Remember to try and fit at least one family meal in together daily, and read to your children or grandchildren or any special child in your life every chance you get.

If you or someone you know would like information on the Care Center please feel free to call me. Limited space is still available.

Lorraine Campo, Director  
732-679-8887



## Dates for 2007 & 2008 Coffeehouse



**2007 – Saturday, Oct 20, Nov 17, Dec 15,  
2008 – Saturday, Jan 19, Feb 16,  
March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21.**

### **Family Life/Fellowship**

Nov 4th - Grandparents Day Celebration - from  
2:00 to 4:00

Dec 2 - Family Advent Pot luck lunch from 2:00 to  
4:00

Jan 26, 2008 - Ski Trip- meet at the church at 7:00  
am.

April 6, 2008 - Spring Tea & Fashion Show - 2:00  
to 4:30

July 19, 2008 - Strawberry and Ice Cream Festival  
- starting at 1:00

## **Special Services:**

**November 21<sup>st</sup>**, 7:30 PM - Thanksgiving  
Eve Service

**December 2**, Loyalty Sunday

**December 16<sup>th</sup>**, Sunday School Christmas  
Pagent

**December 24**, Christmas Eve Worship  
Services @ 7:00 and 11:00 PM

**December 31**, New Year's Eve Service  
7:30 PM

### **Adult and Teen Bible Study Topics:**

***Fast Facts on Islam*** – This study will explain how Islam began, Muslim beliefs about God and Jesus, and how Islam beliefs relate to recent terrorist acts. Who is Muhammad? Why do Muslims hate Israel? What are their beliefs? Sonya Hanson – The Resource Room.

***The Monday Connection*** – What are the opportunities that God gives us once we leave the Sunday service and go back to work or school or our home? This practical study challenges us to live out our faith in such a way that it can powerfully touch those we come into contact with throughout the week. Joe Previte – Classroom 6.

### ***Teen Bible***

The Difficult Sayings of Christ  
Pastor Qualman – Youth Room



Here is the schedule for the next few months for Market Day. Pick up time is always 8:30 – 9:30 AM

Month	Pick up Date	Paper Orders Due	Internet Orders Due
October	10/6	9/25	10/1
November	11/3	10/23	10/29
December	12/8	11/27	12/3
January <b>2008</b>	1/19/08	1/8/08	1/14/08
February	2/16/08	2/5/08	2/11/08
March	3/15/08	3/4/08	3/10/08
April	4/19/08	3/28/08	4/14/08
May	5/17/08	5/6/08	5/12/08
June	6/4/08	6/3/08	6/9/08

## Blood Drive

Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>  
8:30 – 4:00 PM

If you are able, please come out and donate.

For more information, see Tom Jocus



Thank you for all who bought the beautiful scarves that were donated, and made by Maria Kley. \$280.00 was collected and given to Anne Deschenes for new cloths for school. Anne is now living with her dad in Pittsburg.

Lauren Puricelli, and her friends also raised money for Anne at Marlboro day by selling their jewelry. This money has been forward to Anne.

**The Lutheran Church  
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www.lc-goodshepherd.org

**3139 County Road 516**

**Old Bridge, NJ 08857**

**732-679-8883**

The Rev. William A. Qualman, Pastor

**Worship Services**

Sunday Communion Service

8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Sunday School 9:15 AM

Adult & Teen Bible Classes – 9:15 AM

Youth Fellowship Meetings

**GS Children's Center**

**732-679-8887**

Mrs. Lorraine Campo, Director

[gsc@lc-goodshepherd.org](mailto:gsc@lc-goodshepherd.org)

***The Lutheran Church  
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**God's love at work here!**