



# ABUNDANT LIFE TRES DIAS

**December 2013 Newsletter**

[www.rockfordaltd.webs.com](http://www.rockfordaltd.webs.com)

Next Secuela: Sunday, February 9, "Trivia Challenge."  
Later in January, you can see the link on the "Secuela" page  
on our website, AND our Facebook page, but NOW is a  
good time to start planning your 4-person team and save the  
date.

## From your Communication Chair:

Show of hands, now – do you remember the Environment rollo on your weekend (or a subsequent one)? I was reminded of that recently – the continuing need to impact our environments for Christ. In the excellent weekly devotional "Made to Matter – Devotions for Working Christians" by Randy Kilgore (which, interestingly, I obtained from the book table after a Study rollo), the author gave an additional application to that concept.



Kilgore wrote "The body of Christ has never relied on you more than it does right now, and not because it needs your tithe. In fact, rarely in American history has the work of the church been more reliant on the workplaces of its members. . . The need is so great, it may finally be time to consider commissioning mechanics the way we once commissioned missionaries overseas. *Why?* More and more people are actively distancing themselves from the places where they're likely to hear about God. . . So while the local church remains the most important human institution in the body of Christ, people are more likely to see and hear about God in our working lives than in our church lives."

Romans 10:14 says "And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?" We are ambassadors of Christ, His hands and feet – and voices – in the lives of those we come in contact with. So if anyone asks "what do you do?" I shall say "I am an ambassador of Christ cleverly disguised as a legal secretary."

And you?

.....Anita Rogers <><

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## FROM YOUR COMMUNITY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR:

One time I had some children come to me for a teaching time... I gave each of them a gift and they were all thankful and some even said they loved me! Each of them gladly and freely received the gifts. None of them said they had been naughty and didn't deserve them or that they weren't worthy. They just accepted them and smiled. The same way these kids received my gifts to them is the way God wants us to receive from Him – freely and with joy. John 16:24 says, "...Ask and keep on asking and you will receive, so that your joy (gladness, delight) may be full and complete."

A lot of us struggle with accepting the life God has for us, such as His love, grace, mercy and forgiveness. We tend to think in terms of "GETTING THINGS." Have you ever considered this? Usually to "get" something implies struggle or maybe having to fight for it. We have a hard time with being "given" something. When we "get" something we have to try to figure out how to manipulate it to make it work for us... that is the problem most people have with these gifts of the Spirit... we try to manipulate them rather than just letting the Spirit give them to us and use them in us.

We also struggle with this because most people feel that they want to "earn" what they have. Well, grace, love, and mercy from the Spirit don't work that way. We can't earn them. They are freely given... and because of that many of us don't freely accept. But here is the thing... God is not for sale. We can't buy, earn or deserve Him. His gifts – forgiveness, mercy, grace, favor, salvation – are free. And we could never do enough to earn them or deserve them. Jesus paid the price that we could never pay to provide these gifts for us. We simply have to receive them!

So let's start off this Christmas and holiday season the right way... Just ask the Spirit to help you pray, "God, please bless me. I receive Your blessings in my life, not because I'm good and have earned them, but because You are good!" Give me the joy you have for me and help me to be a part of others experiencing this joy in You as well.

Ryan Bensheimer

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### *Spring Men's Weekend #30 .....*

*Psalm 62:7-8 "My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock , my refuge. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge."*

It is an honor and a humbling experience to be called to serve as Rector for weekend #30. The journey to the weekend is just beginning and there is much to be done before then, but with God as our guide I am confident that all things will come together as He has planned.

I feel blessed to have Bill Pieters as Head Cha and we anticipate an exciting and rewarding experience as we prepare for the weekend. I would encourage all who wish to serve on the weekend to get your applications in as soon as possible so we can start forming the team.

Herman Johnson

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## “Getting to know you”

This feature will be an ongoing look at the people who have volunteered to serve on Secretariat. We circulated a questionnaire, and plan to print one or two responses each newsletter. This issue features Michael Dustman, our Reunion Chair.



### **Your name, church, city, and family:**

Michael Dustman; Worship at The River in Delavan, WI; Live outside of Lake Geneva, WI; Wife Kathy; Older daughter Delaney (22); Younger daughter McKenna (19)

### **What was your first paying job, and what did you learn from it?**

Bag boy at “Foodarama”....which killed all the other big chain grocery stores. I used to bag groceries for Phil Donohue and Erma Bombeck. I learned that awesome customer service and attention to detail can slay the giants.

### **As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? How did that turn out for you?**

I loved astronomy and all that was out among the stars. But when I found out that I had to totally focus on math and the sciences, I knew I was a goner. However, my liberal arts degree...while specializing in nothing...gave me a great overview on LOTS of things. I’ll destroy most of you at Trivial Pursuit!

### **If you had a \$10,000 gift card for travel, where would you go and what would you do there?**

I’d like to take Kath with me on a small cruise ship in the Mediterranean and go to Istanbul, Ephesus, Dubrovnik, Naples, Marseille and Barcelona. We’d eat, relax, tour and “mess around” throughout the Mediterranean!

### **What would be on the dead-bang bottom of your list of places to travel? Care to say why?**

I lived in Orlando, FL for 2 years and I call it “hell on earth”. First, your senses are overwhelmed by billboards every 10’ telling you how great all the tourist traps are....especially Rat World. Secondly, trying to get around is often a traffic gridlock nightmare. Lastly, except for March & November, it’s ungodly hot and humid. AAAAAAARRRRRRRRGGGGHHHHH.

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**What has surprised you lately?**

Each birthday surprises me at how old I am chronologically, but how the gap widens between my age and my maturity level!

**If you had one chance for a “do over,” what would it be?**

I realize God had/has a purpose for everything, but if **I** could do it all over again, I have 3 things that carry pretty equal weight for me: (1) I'd have come to the faith MUCH sooner, (2) I wouldn't have wrapped my life around booze, parties and all the “stuff” that results from such a lifestyle for so many years, and (3) I wouldn't be addicted to food and sweets SO, SO much, thus resulting in being so heavy

**Prettiest place you've ever seen?**

- From the air, flying out of Madrid and approaching the Sierra Madre mountains
- From the ground, 2-3 early mornings off our deck with hot air balloons above

**What was the best thing your parents taught you? What one thing did they do that you have sworn to NEVER do? (Amusing, not abusing, please.)**

BEST: Being taught to always say “**please**” and “**thank you**”

NEVER: Sworn never to do (again, I don't have just one!) (1) My parents never said, “I love you” (even though I know they did), so we've used it ALL the time over the years; and (2) After we had kids, I told Kath: “When one of the girls disagrees with me, if I ever look at them and say, ‘**As long as you live in my house, you'll live by my rules**’, then just take me out in the field and shoot me.” They were always allowed to present their case (not whine) in an attempt to change our minds.

**Name one item from your bucket list:**

If space flights ever become remotely affordable, I'm there!

**Favorite genre of music?**

Rock after 1966...and several genres that fall under that broad category

**Hidden talent?**

Anyone familiar with “Labyrinthspiel”, where you have to deftly maneuver a steel ball through a maze on a flat surface with holes all along the way? You move the ball using 2 hand controls that tilt the maze in the direction you want the ball to move. I used to be the King....

### *Spring Women's Weekend #30.....*

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1:2

My name is Cindy Weltzien and I attended ALTD #16 in the spring of 2007 where I sat at the table of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. And my name is Becka Iler and I attended ALTD #18 in the spring of 2008 where I sat at the table of Leah. We are honored to be called to serve as your Women's Weekend #30 Rectora and Head Cha. We will be forever thankful and blessed for the changes that have occurred in our lives because of our attendance as candidates on our weekends and also for the way God has used us and matured us over the years in service to Him on both Team and in our daily walk.

We have chosen Acts 1:8 as the theme verse for the Weekend - **“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”**

We are in the process of seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit in forming His Team for Weekend #30. If you are being called to serve, we would love for you to check your calendars and submit an application. The Heads and Rollistas Training is January 25, Team Formation Meetings are February 22, March 8, March 22, and April 5 and the Women’s Weekend is May 1-4 at Inspiration Center.

It is never too early to start thinking about and praying over those God is calling you to invite to attend the Weekend.

We thank you for covering us in prayer while we are in these early planning stages for this weekend.

In Service to Him,  
Cindy and Becka



**Mark your calendars!** Starting January 7 Ryan Bensheimer is starting a Reunion group that will meet the first Tuesday of every month for swimming at The Geneva Ridge Resort indoor pool. It is an informal time for swimming in the pool and hot tub and fellowship. We are shooting for 6pm each night but you can be flexible with your own times. Families and kids are of course welcome. They have agreed to give us a great deal... The cost is \$3 per person or \$10 for a family per night. You can order Pizza at Geneva Ridge for \$10 also! No reservations are required simply show up and check in with the front desk. Yearly memberships are available for individuals and families if you are interested please contact Geneva Ridge.

Geneva Ridge Resort  
W4240 Wisconsin 50, Lake Geneva, WI 53147  
(262) 249-3800

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### *Update from your Weekend Chair:*

It is with great pleasure we announce the new arrangement with Inspiration Center. We as a board were able to secure storage in the Inspiration Center Lodge basement. This is seen as a huge blessing for our ALTD community. It will no longer limit who can serve as weekend chair in the future due to storage or hauling issues. It will also allow for a formal, constructive organizing. This is such a relief moving forward. The contract will run concurrent with our contract to hold our weekends at Inspiration Center, and is renewable each fall. If you have any questions, we would be happy to answer them. You can contact any of the present board members to do that.

We did not find any items left after the women's weekend and I believe that the two items found from the men's weekend have been returned to those who lost them. If you did leave anything behind, please let us know and we will contact Inspiration or you can give them a call as well.

Current needs for the supplies:

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1. 2-3 inch wide blue painters tape...8 rolls
2. Totes with covers to replace broken/mismatched ones...we would like to begin color coding, so if you would like to help with totes, monetary donation would be best.. but if you have 4 or 5 larger ones give us a call...and we can let you know if they will work. It appears we could use about 10 or 12 to start with
3. Each weekend we go through about 500 to 1000 coffee cups/plastic glasses. If you would like to donate these, it has been discussed that the 12oz ones are a little too large. Let's try the 10 oz coffee cups, please, and stay with the 12 oz for cold liquids
4. 6 inch plates...500 to 1,000 per weekend
5. We need to start replacing serenade candles, several are broken, or we will need parts to repair and someone to repair them
6. The white screen and throne really need a coat of fresh paint...any volunteers? They should also be reinforced...getting a bit wobbly
7. Each weekend we use about 24-48 double A batteries...donations welcomed
8. Each weekend we use 16-24 boxes of tissues...Puffs, please

IF YOU CAN DONATE ANY OF THESE ITEMS PLEASE CONTACT RANDY OR LYNETTE NO LATER THAN TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE MEN'S WEEKEND. THANK YOU!

Thanks for considering one (or more) of these donations! Have a very blessed Christmas, remembering what it has meant for Christ to come and rescue us. Randy and Lynette Rasmusson



## Reunion Chair encouragement -

It's been a few weeks since the Men's & Women's Weekend #29 wrapped-up. As Team Members, new Pescadores and "old-hands" know, the last day for all the Tres Dias retreats focuses on the 4th Day. Most of us walk away from the weekend about 2 feet off the ground....bound-and-determined to take Action and not slip back into our old ways.

But as I've reviewed the number of men and women who currently belong in Reunion Groups (or some related 4th Day activity), I'm struck by how many people apparently never made a commitment to join, form or maintain a group. As a percentage of folks who have gone through ALTD retreats over the years, we're barely in double-digits.

Kath and I have both been in separate Reunion Groups for over 10 years. I'm not saying that to seek a pat on our backs.... Rather, we're sad that so many ALTD'ers have missed-out on *SO MANY* opportunities to experience true Christian Community. Few things are greater treasures than bonding in deep friendships, to unabashedly talk about faith issues, to share in the joys and heartaches of everyday life with these wonderful people....to do life together.

The New Testament has 67 verses that call us into "Community"....to actively engage with, and serve, our Brothers and Sisters in the faith. Philippians 2:1-4, from The Message says it this way:

*If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if His love has made any difference*

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*in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care— then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. ....Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.*

If I can help you get into a Reunion Group or possibly put a new one together, please get hold of me. That's why I'm here.

Michael Dustman  
Secretariat Reunion Chair  
[kmdust@genevaonline.com](mailto:kmdust@genevaonline.com)

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ALTD men's weekend #30: April 24~27, 2014; Inspiration Center;  
Herman Johnson, Rector  
ALTD women's weekend #30: May 1~4, 2014; Inspiration Center;  
Cindy Weltzien, Rectora

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Reminder: our community's Secretariat members are included on the last page,  
with contact info.

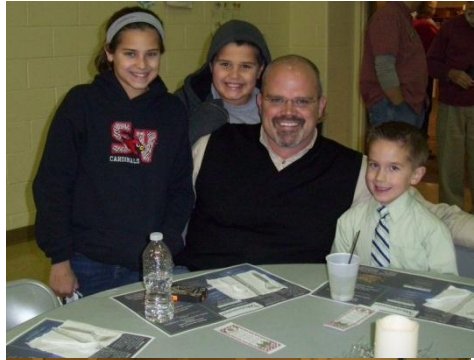
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Another gentle reminder – when bringing food / beverages for secuelas and weekends, please continue to be considerate about either not bringing, or labeling as such, any items that may have an alcohol content of any kind. We haven't had a problem with this in the past, and want to continue that respect in the future.

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We had a FABULOUS Christmas secuela on December 6 at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Here are only a few of the photos (my apologies for the less-than-perfect sizing). These and a few others can be seen on our website: [www.rockfordaltd.webs.com](http://www.rockfordaltd.webs.com)



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