

Abundant Life Church

October 28, 2009

Helping People Discover
and Develop New Life
In Jesus Christ

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ALC Annual Pack-n-Pray Night for Operation Christmas Child Sunday, November 1st @ 6pm

Operation Christmas Child is a ministry that provides shoe boxes full of Christmas gifts to children all around the world who are in need. If you would like more information please click on the Operation Christmas Child logo or visit www.samaritanspurse.org.

Things to bring to Pack-n-Pray Night

- Empty shoe boxes (standard size) or plastic containers
- A variety of gifts for boys and girls to pack into your boxes
- A donation of \$7 per box made payable to Samaritan's Purse (there are lots of empty shoe boxes @ ALC if you need any)

If you cannot make it to Pack-n-Pray Night and would still like to participate, please bring your filled boxes to the church. You may wrap your box if you'd like, but please wrap the lid separately. Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your gift.

We will accept shoe box donations until Friday, November 20th, @ 5pm

ALC Online

Blog

ALC Volunteer Openings

Greeter Ministry: Many options and openings available. If interested, please contact Becky Stutzman @ 993-0933.

Computer Operators: Help run Power Point and Media Shout for Sunday services. To join the team, contact Jared Reall @ 321-3393.

Kidz Kingdom: Many opportunities available for adults and high school students. To get involved, contact Kristin Fourie @ 321-6078.

Hats of Hope: This ministry sews and knits hats for cancer patients who have lost their hair due to chemotherapy treatment. To get involved, contact Leah Holm @ 746-5043.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, November 7th, @ 7am
Join us for great food & fellowship!

Ushers

November 1st

Danny Weaver, Paul Brenneman, Ben Weaver, Brian Christner, John Bennett, Dave Shirk, Mervin Borntreger, Justin Miller, Merlyn Conrad, Greg Mills

Christmas Outreach 2009

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Saturday, Dec 5th
Begins @ 6pm
Christmas Program
followed by
Winter Wonderland

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM : For Preschool-12th Grade.
Practices are **Mondays @ 6:30pm** for K-12th grade.
We invite all kids to come out to be a part of the choir.
Watch for an announcement for the start of preschool practice.

WINTER WONDERLAND...will feature real snow, rides, food, and games! We will need everybody's help to pull off this exciting event! We need help with construction, sewing, food prep, and lots of helpers in other areas. Stop by the Information Center Sunday and see where you can sign up to help!

Do you have it?

We are missing (or trying to locate) curriculum for a group bible study on the Study of James. If you or your small group have it, please contact Jessica at the church office. Thanks so much!

Fall Time Change

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour this weekend! The time change goes into effect @ 2am this Sunday, November 1st.

Missions Corner

PLEASE READ!

Regarding the Miami Trip :
We plan to leave Friday, November 6th, at 4pm and return Sunday, November 8th. The cost for the trip is \$95 per person, plus the cost of fuel.

If you plan to go on this trip, call Rick ASAP @ 302-3925 for all the details, as there have been some changes made.

KIDZ KINGDOM

Parents, in our current series "**Center Stage**" we are learning how to worship God! This week, our focus will be on giving. We'd like to begin a service project supporting the ministry of the African Children's Choir, who performed for us this year! We will be talking to the kids this week about how they can give, and a letter will be sent home to parents. It's an awesome opportunity to show our kids how blessed we truly are! Thank you for your support!



UNITE

UNITING THIS GENERATION
TO AWAKEN OUR PASSION

For 18-20 something's
Tuesday nights at 7pm
In the Thrive Center.
For more info, email us at
unitesrq@gmail.com

THRIVE
YOUTH MINISTRIES

Youth Pastor Andy Ard
924-5835 andy@alcsrq.com

Grades 6-12 meet Wednesdays from 6:30-9:15pm in the Thrive Center

Parents - Check out the Parent Newsletter on the Youth Ministry page of ALC's website @ www.abundantlife-sarasota.com

Thrive Girls Tea
Troyer's Dutch Heritage



Nov 7th @ 2pm

\$5

**NO THRIVE
NEXT WEEK!
November 4th**

Hillsong United Movie will be showing @ both Sarasota Square AMC & Hollywood 20 theaters. Contact box offices for ticket availability and pricing information.

Click on the THRIVE logo to go to our website for more info!

Abundant Life

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November 2009 Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Fall Time Change Pack-n-Pray Night for Operation Christmas Child, 6pm	2 Christmas Program Practice, 6:30pm Bringing Up Boys, 7pm "When God's People Pray", 7pm Financial Peace University, 7pm	3 UNITE, 7pm	4 Thrive, 7pm	5 Praise Band Practice, 7pm	6	7 Men's Breakfast, 7am
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Finance Team Mtg., 7pm	18	19	20 Last day for Operation Christmas Child shoe box drop off, 5pm	21
22	23 Hats of Hope, 7pm	24	25	26 Happy Thanksgiving! Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28
29	30					

C ONSTANT STRUGGLE

One of the challenges of living life as a Follower of Jesus Christ is the constant struggle between doing what we naturally want to do and doing what Jesus expects us to do. In our hearts we want so badly to do God's will and be obedient to Him, but there's also something inside of us that is fighting for attention. This other [thing] is called our "Human Nature, Old Self, Sinful nature, etc." Whatever you want to call it, it represents our old self that was exchanged for a new nature when we became a Follower of Jesus Christ. The problem is that it wants to keep popping up in our lives by trying to influence us. It's influence is usually contrary to what God wants us to do.

Sometimes our old self gets mixed in with our new self and things get all confused. We try to obey God, while at the same time give in to our human nature. We often do that by obeying just enough to get by and appease our conscience. We tend to obey the letter of the instructions rather than the heart and principles behind them. We go the first mile and stop there.

A BOVE AND BEYOND

Toward the beginning of Jesus' ministry he preached a sermon that has become the greatest sermon in history – the Sermon on the Mount. In that sermon Jesus tells us how we are to live our every day lives in a way that honors Him and demonstrates the SALT & LIGHT we are to be to the world. Toward the beginning of that sermon He uses an illustration to encourage people to go above and beyond what's expected of them. He said, *"If someone demands that you carry their pack for one mile, also carry it the second mile for them."* In other words, we are to serve people in a way that goes beyond what they expect of us – Go the 2nd Mile!

This concept is contrary to what our human nature wants to do. First of all, this instruction is aimed at how we treat people who are not necessarily on our friend list. It was for the Jews and how they were to respond to the Roman soldiers when they were commanded to carry their heavy gear for a mile. Jesus said, don't stop with 1 mile, voluntarily carry it the 2nd mile.

When Jesus said this he wasn't being legalistic about the 2nd mile. He was simply saying that we should go out of our way to be a blessing to other people, especially when they don't deserve it or ex

pect it. In other words, *"going out of YOUR WAY, into THEIR WAY, equals GOD'S WAY!"* Jesus tells us that it is when we go the 2nd mile that we receive blessings. It's when we go beyond expectations to help and bless others that we begin to experience God's blessings.

Going the 1st mile is expected, even though that is even a challenge for some of us. The 1st mile is when we simply are obedient to God's Word and use our lives to serve others. For all of us going the 1st mile should be automatic. But it's the 2nd mile that differentiates the true Jesus-Followers and those who simply go through the motions. Jesus said that if we truly live our lives as Salt & Light we will practice going the 2nd mile with people. It's when we begin to go beyond people's expectations that we begin to make an impact on their lives and begin to see the community changed with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The 2nd Mile:
going out of YOUR WAY
into THEIR WAY
equals GOD'S WAY!

2nd MILE - 2nd NATURE

The goal for each of us should be to get to the point that going the 2nd mile with people should become 2nd nature for us. Being a Follower of Jesus Christ means

that we not only follow Jesus, we should also work toward becoming like him. If there was ever a 2nd Miler, it was Jesus. He went way above and beyond what anyone expected or imagined.

What are some ways that you can intentionally go the 2nd mile with people in your life? What are some ways that you can intentionally go the 2nd mile for people that you don't even get along with? What are some ways that you can go the 2nd mile with people you don't know yet?

Being a 2nd Miler means that we begin to change the way we think. Rather than doing just enough to get by, we begin to think of ways to do the unexpected – above and beyond! Can you imagine the influence and impact you'd have on the lives people around you if you'd begin to go the 2nd mile with them? Give it a shot. God will not only bless you as a result, but he will begin to use you to change people's lives around you, then eventually our community. Let's become 2nd Milers together.

Blessings, **VERN**