



Our School as Part of the Alternate Society

By Chuck Hornsby



When we were in Norfolk earlier this year, a long time Christian educator/administrator came up to me. He was, by his own admission, worn down and wondering whether his efforts were doing any good. He was about to change parts of the country and his level of expectation was a little flat. He asked me, "Where did you get them? Where in the world did you get them?" He was asking about our kids who were busily going about praying over people with a great expectation that God was real and that He was going to show up and help people. The kids were friendly, confident as individuals, and full of faith. And this educator was both blessed and confounded by them.

"WHERE DID YOU GET THEM???"

Well, we got them from godly parents, filled with the Holy Spirit.

Well, we got them from the Alleluia Community, a radical committed band of disciples.

Well, we got them from teachers, volunteers, YAMS, youth workers, etc. who are willing to live a sacrificial life.

Well, we got them from single

people, grandparents, couples without children, etc. who are willing to see the children as THEIR children and live in Christian simplicity so that we can afford to have a school.

Well, we got them because of their own good choices; choices that make them NOW Christians, not tomorrow Christians.

Well... you see, we are an alternate society, and if you see fruit, it's because we try hard to be a family educating its children.

A family educating its children was one of our earliest descriptions of our school. And over 30 years later, we are STILL doing it. Many of our original goals are still our goals. Occasionally we change the language a bit, but this year, like all of our past years, we will attempt to encourage, teach, and train young people to love God with their whole hearts and to love their neighbors as themselves. This will have an academic component, a moral component, and a training component.

We still hope that each student will come into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ; that he or she will

become a true disciple; that he or she upon graduation will be prepared to further their education or enter the work world so that each one in his or her uniqueness can contribute to the building up of the church and the evangelization of the world. And we want to be sources of healing and enrichment so that each one can experience the riches of what it means to be a human being, made in the likeness and image of God. These things have always been our goal, and it is STILL a cooperative venture. We are a family educating its children.

So here we go AGAIN. Each year, though built on the past, is unique. Last year, there was a special emphasis on revival, which I hope will continue this year. In many ways it was built on the year before when a number of the kids decided to "do hard things" and to take ownership of their own spiritual growth.

Like nearly every year, there are a few changes in staff. Lyndsey Mancia took a different job, but she has served us very well. Be sure to thank

Here We Go STILL! Here We Go AGAIN! Here We Go MORE!

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her. Carolyn King will be filling that role. Pray for her.

After years of teaching art, Carol Pride will only be teaching history this year and Kathleen Kent is our new art teacher. Thank Carol for all the years of faithful art service and all those self-portraits of our kids that she trained into being. Kathleen, welcome back as a teacher at ACS in a new venue.

Kim Samaha will do a little less this year because of a special event in her family, so Rachel Balducci will help out and Kathy Visintainer will do a little more.

Every year there are changes and adjustments, and each year the school starts again with the gifts and sacrifices that God has made available. Last years seniors are on to a new stage of their adventure, but they are still part of the family, and a new kindergarten class will tiptoe, hop or run

into the life of ACS. Hold on! Here we go again.

Finally, here we go MORE. Each year we strive to get a little better and to find the balance between being a family school and an educational institution. We have worked hard on curriculum changes in the last few years, and we continue to fine-tune these changes. We need to be who we are and still fit into the broader educational community.

Last year that required a number of changes so that we could continue to be accredited. At first, most of these changes seemed difficult and perhaps unnecessary, but we are beginning to see how to use the changes to make us more, not less, and to help us do a better job of being a family educating its children. After reviewing last year, we will make some changes in how we meet the accreditation standards at the high school lev-

el. When the agency that accredits our school approved our method for meeting their criteria, they said, "Alleluia Community School is unique in the state of Georgia. Community is school — school is community."

So has it been from the beginning. So shall it be this year.

UPWARD!!!! AND ONWARD!!!!
COME HOLY SPIRIT!

Chuck Hornsby is the Superintendent of Alleluia Community School. He is also a member of the National Service Committee of Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the USA after serving on its advisory council for several years. He and his wife Peggy have been members of Alleluia since 1976. They have three children and six grandchildren and attend St. Joseph Catholic Church in Augusta.

Kevin gave the first talk on Saturday and encouraged us to be still before the Lord and to just spend time in prayer and Scripture. Kevin gave us the definitions of love and told us that love is not indifferent; it is transforming. He explained that love produces forgiveness and is the secret of Christian unity. Kevin left us with a meditation to focus on for the rest of the morning — remember what the Lord has done for you.

We returned after lunch and Jerry spoke to us about abiding in the Lord. He shared on Eph 2: 4-6. He spoke about how even though we were dead in our sin God loved us so much and poured out upon us His generous mercy. In so doing, He saved us by His grace and won a place for us in heaven through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. After Jerry's sharing we broke down into small groups of 4 and Kevin gave us a topic to dis-

Pastoral Care Group on Retreat

By Bob Nestor

The weekend of July 25-26 saw an exodus of the Alleluia pastors heading across the river to go on retreat at Gravatt Camp and Conference Center in Aiken County. This was just a wonderful venue for our retreat deep in the South Carolina woods with a beautiful chapel, a fully stocked lake and food that was real southern cooking. The theme for our retreat was, "First Love/Faithful Love." Kevin Murrell and Jerry Germann were the two Elders selected to give the talks and to stir into flame that fire of the Holy Spirit.

Friday evening began the retreat with a rip roaring Holy Ghost break-

down! The men were in high praise before the Lord, and I don't think any one of us had ever experienced such freedom before the Lord. It was indeed a glorious time just basking in the Lord's presence and feeling the power of the Holy Spirit being released into the room.

After the prayer meeting, it took us a little time to get our feet back on the ground and then we were ready for bed. Most of the brothers were able to stay over that night and the accommodations were great. Our aim was to give the brothers ample time for personal prayer and quiet time before the Lord.

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Making Friends “Down Under”

By Bob Garrett

This past July was a big month for many people in Alleluia, especially the team that went to Australia to visit the Servants of Jesus Community. We were there for two reasons: 1) to attend their “Prepare” conference for young adults and 2) to get to know and build relationships with members of the Servants of Jesus Community (SOJ). We were gone from July 2-16 and had a great time with our brothers and sisters *down under* there in Sydney. The time we spent with SOJ was, by anybody’s standards, packed from top to bottom with great things, especially the good fellowship and warm friendships we have there at our “home away from home.” In many ways the Servants of Jesus are the definition of gracious hospitality – and we were the beneficiaries. Space prevents naming all of the “thank-yous” that are well deserved, but I am

particularly grateful for the long walks and talks I was able to have with Joe and Julie Chircop and for the Dixons who took such good care of me.

Before we began our return trip, I asked the young adults to give me their impressions of their stay in Sydney. In some ways, their responses tell the best parts of the story. I will share with you a small part of their input to me.

Luke Freed said, “I think God is saying that in order for all Christians to unify, we need to be willing to go out of our comfort zones and help other new communities to realize that unity in the body of Christ is possible.”

Theresa Almeter said, “I think that we should have more youth conferences. The Holy Spirit showed Himself to me in the most powerful way, and I have never felt as close to God as I did at ‘Prepare.’ I also realized that I am very open to going to new places.” Along the same lines Helena Fuller said, “I loved the U-Turn program during the ‘gap year’ from high school à college. I think we (Alleluia) should attempt to connect with the Servants of Jesus to allow our youth to participate in their program after working in NYC with the Missionaries of Charity.”

Regarding the personal impact

Bob Nestor is a retired Laboratory Administrator and an Elder of the Alleluia Community responsible for pastoral and service teams, community events and is in headship of the weekly prayer meetings. He and his wife, Pam, have been Full Covenant members of Alleluia Community since 1976. They have five children, 11 grandchildren and live in Augusta, Georgia, where they are members of St. Joseph Catholic Church.



Bob Garrett and Dan Almeter

and good fruit, several of the responses made it clear that the Holy Spirit was at work. About this Teresa said, “At the gathering I had two different people tell me that I was going to be a prophet. I gave two prophetic words! I also felt like all of the young adults were my family and everyone was very welcoming.” She also said, “I am definitely coming back.”

Helena Fuller related a blessing she received by saying, “God worked wonders in healing my heart this summer, and clearly spoke to my heart during the conference. Words for community – during our trip: I heard the Lord say that we need more freedom in Alleluia.”

Helena also related some of her personal experience when she said, “The worship during ‘Prepare’ and the SOJ ‘Gathering’ lifted us into the throne room. When I asked the Lord why their worship is so beautiful, I felt like the Lord said, ‘They are free’ – the Aussies are not worried about what people think, not afraid of looking foolish. They have a freedom – ‘no worries.’ We need to ask God to give us this freedom!”

Nicki Maniccia shared some of the personal impact she experienced, “I had an experience of deeper prayer. The Holy Spirit inspired me to reorganize my prayer time in a way that would completely change and improve my time with the Lord. He

Retreat Builds Relationships

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cuss in our small groups. We were asked to share on how we have dealt with times when we thought the Lord wasn’t there. Each group met for about an hour or more and the sharings were really deep and powerful.

We ended the day with Bob Garrett leading us in a Lord’s Day meal. God refreshed us and really did restore our first love for Him. It was the first time the pastors had met in that configuration to go on retreat. From the remarks we heard from those present, it sounds like it surely won’t be the last.

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Down Under

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spoke to me very clearly how to do that. I also had two very cool "Holy Spirit" moments. Lastly, I had a personal prophecy given to me that was completely correct and confirmed."

About her experience while with SOJ Nicki said, "We have a great deal to learn from Servants of Jesus. I'm also very glad to be part of Alleluia! I think the worship during prayer meeting could be improved to be more like the worship we experienced there. I felt like we were able to enter in much quicker and for longer periods of time when we worshipped with them. I also felt there was a freedom in their dancing and moving around the room. I also think we should get involved in U-Turn!"

Amy Germann followed Nicki's thoughts and experience when she said, "I had a tremendous sense of God's presence there in Servants of Jesus. I saw a reckless abandonment to the Lord and the movement of the Holy Spirit there that I immediately desired and felt we need in Alleluia. There was such an openness and expectation of the Spirit and I was blown away by the openness in the young people to encounter Jesus. They supported each other in seeking the Holy Spirit and evangelization. I desire this for our young people and for myself."

James Kent summarized what everyone else was thinking when he said, "The conference was amazing and I would love to go back and visit again. I also think the community should start a program like U-Turn that would give more opportunity to visit, evangelize and minister to people world-wide."

Matthew Eyrich's observation is a true for all who went to Australia: "Throughout the entire trip I had a feeling that God was working to



Alleluia and Servants of Jesus kids on the steps of the Concert Hall



At the airport preparing to leave Australia

bring different people and different cultures together to do His work."

The Servants of Jesus and the Alleluia Community are a world apart, but are called to the same vision of building covenant community that is both charismatic and ecumenical. This was a long and challenging trip,

but it was definitely worth the time and effort. In the days ahead I am looking forward to many more contacts with the Servants of Jesus that will confirm our mutual love for one another and our zeal to serve Jesus together.

Bob Garrett is an Elder and the Overall Coordinator of the Alleluia Community, responsible for day-to-day coordination of Community activities. He is also the leader of the multi-denominational South Augusta Pastors' Alliance. He and his wife, Sue, have been Full Covenant members of Alleluia Community since 1977. They have five children, four grandchildren and attend Vineyard Fellowship in Augusta, Georgia.



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