

Alleluia

Dove

A Weekly Publication of the
ALLELUIA COMMUNITY
Augusta, Georgia



Thirty Days of September: A Time of Renewal

The Pastoral Team has been working on a program for the 30 Days centered on the theme of praise. As we read in our covenant, we are called to be a people of praise. Praise should always be on our lips as we begin the day and end our day. Toward this end, we are requesting that each household, whether a single or a family, begin each day (or, if they choose, end each day) with a meditation from the book, *31 Days of Praise, Enjoying God Anew*. Now we know that it is 30 days hath September... but we are giving you an extra day to squeeze out one more day to praise the Lord.

The Pastoral Team consists of Elders Bob Nestor and Dan Almeter, Pastoral Coordinator Chuck Hornsby, Handmaids Carolyn Clark, Kelly Dolin and Joanne Paulos, Support Group Head Tod Densmore, and Full Covenant members Kevin King and Vanessa Milligan. Their mission is to develop the monthly teaching themes for the prayer meetings, men's and women's meetings and retreats and the Alleluia Dove Newsletter to aid community members in living out their call to growth in holiness in covenant, charismatic, Christian and multi-denominational community.

We are also requesting that on the day Support Groups meet, the meditation for that day be read aloud and the SG then discuss what the Lord is saying to them through the reading.

We would like the Alleluia Community School to use the meditations in home rooms, school prayers, etc. This will be the backdrop for all of the other activities we would like to include for our 30 Day discipline.

One of the ways in which we can praise God is to pray in tongues. We are suggesting that each person set aside a daily time to pray in tongues for at least 10 minutes. The book written by Ruth Myers and Warren Myers will be available before September 1 and given out one to each household. It is a hardback book for which we are asking an offering of \$6.00. This can be paid to the office or collected at the SG level.

As in times past, we have requested each family or single household to limit their use of media for the month. Media often distracts us from spending time with the Lord in either praying or serving the Lord or one another.

We are requesting that those who use social media, fast from the use of the computer, smart phone, I-pad, etc. for a good portion of the day (Rule of Life #12).

In an effort to promote our alternate society, we are asking each household to do a Lord's Day / Sabbath meal, especially inviting singles to join them. Also, either at the SG or household level, use another evening as a method to invite non-community people to a Lord's Day/Sabbath gathering (Rule of Life #7). We need to ensure that everyone is invited out to dinner or fellowship once during the month. We also encourage this to be an evangelistic opportunity to invite others to our gatherings or LDM/Sabbaths.

During the Bush Administration, the phrase was used that America was moving forward... for an endless dream and a thousand points of light. This phrase was borrowed from C. S. Lewis' book, *The Magician's Nephew* in which Lewis wrote, "One moment there was total darkness, next mo-

30 Days

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ment a thousand points of light leaped out." Our thought is that we would fill the community with a thousand points of light — meaning each kind or loving act we would do for our family, our neighbors, SG members, etc. would be a point of light that Jesus is calling us to in these 30 days. We are to be His hands and feet for one another, to truly live out 1 Cor. 13.

Everyone can get into this program. We can cut the grass for that widow or single who has to hire it out. Many of these women just need a helping hand every now and then to move something, hang a picture, etc. It may also be visiting those who are unable to get out often (see the *Family News* ad from Perry O'Keefe). Use your imagination to think of ways you can bless your brothers and sisters. This is surely something that even our children can get into by serving siblings, parents, teachers and friends. Let us all get behind this and make this one of the best 30 days ever.

Before September starts, make sure you have a plan, both individually and as a family. Rom. 8: 38-39 says, "For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

In continuing our theme of Alleluia being an alternate society, the Pastoral Team, has decided that for September, the Dove articles will be centered on those people who by their lives have been a people of praise. Each main article will have a testimony from one of those who have gone before us and are now with the Lord. These will come from our

Thirty Days of September The Plan

Each household to begin each day (or end each day) with a meditation from the book, *31 Days of Praise, Enjoying God Anew*.

At SG meetings, read aloud the meditation for that day and then discuss what the Lord is saying.

ACS to use the meditations in homerooms, school prayers, etc.

Each person to set aside a daily time to pray in tongues for at least 10 minutes.

Each family or single household to limit their use of media.

Those who use social media are to fast from the use of the computer, smart phone, I-pad, etc. for a good portion of the day.

Each household to do Lord's Day / Sabbath meals, especially inviting singles and/or guests to join them.

Each person to be a "thousand points of light" (do kind or loving acts for others).

25th anniversary book, *By the Word of Their Testimony*. This article will be accompanied by the testimony of one of our present day covenant brothers or sisters who have signed since 1998 when the anniversary book was published. In reading these, we trust that you will praise Jesus for all He has done in our lives.

Heb. 11:1 (TLB) states, "What is

faith? It is the confident assurance of something we want is going to happen. It is the certainty that what we hope for is waiting for us, even when we cannot see it ahead." These testimonies will build your faith to continue on the journey that Jesus has given us called "community."

—The Pastoral Team

The Joy of Serving in Jenkins

By Judy Hartney

On June 15, 2014, Alleluia men and women, primarily from the rising senior class of 2015, left to serve many under-privileged children in Jenkins, Kentucky. I could never adequately share with you all the tremendous blessings this trip was for me. It challenged all of us in every which way, and I am most sincere when I say that it has truly revived my spiritual life. While I cannot tell you all the ways it has affected me, I stand in heartfelt wonder and appreciation as I share what it was like to be in Jenkins, Kentucky this summer.

This marked the 27th year that our community sent out willing individuals who labored for two weeks with exceptional attitudes and joy. They showed Jesus' love and compassion to all they encountered along with the local priest, Father Santosh, and four Missionaries of Charity (MC's), Sister M. Imeldina, Sister M. Denise, Sister M. Suma Rani, and Sister M. Paulinus. They served from the local parish, St. George Catholic Church. Although, not all of our seniors were able to go, those who did were Theresa Almeter, Faith Harmon, Bernadette Hartney, Tessa Visintainer, Ethan Balducci, Billy Conkright, Abe Dresser, Matthew Eyrich, Sean Sullivan and Ryan Wilby. Chaperones included Bobby Phillips, Homer Acosta, Cynthia Napier, and Sarah Wilby for the first week, and Tom Hartney, Jimmy Dresser, Judy Hartney and Debbie Cosper for the second week.

The daily routine for the women was:

4:40 a.m. – Arise

5:00-6:00 a.m. – Morning Prayer from the Divine Office with the Missionaries of Charity

6:15-7:15 a.m. – Exercise or nap, and breakfast

7:15 -8:15 a.m. – Adoration and Rosary with the MCs (the men joined in here)

8:30-9:30 a.m. – Vans leave to pick-up children from homes, and take to the church camp; remaining chaperones and counselors receive children

brought to camp with outside play

9:30 a.m. – Serve breakfast to the kids.

10:00 a.m. – Music, followed by a teaching from Fr. Santosh on the Ten Commandments or the Beatitudes. The different age groups then rotated in their respective activities: skits, arts and crafts, group discussion, and recess outside... (the campers' favorite craft this year was making rubber band bracelets)

11:30 a.m. – Serve lunch to campers and clean-up

12:15 p.m. – Rotate activities in age groups

1:45 p.m. – Closing songs and out; outside play

2:00-3:00 p.m. – Remaining counselors clean church hall as vans take the children back to their homes

3:00-6:00 p.m. – Free time!

Younger women take turns shopping for and prepping to cook that night's dinner

6:00 p.m. – Mass at St. George Church
Abe and Ethan led the music every day while the rest of the young men took turns reading the Scriptures and Psalm responses

7:00-8:45 p.m. – Dinner and clean-up

8:45-9:00 p.m. – Household prayers for the women

9:00-9:20 p.m. – Men and women join together with the MCs for Vespers/Night Prayers



The last day with the sisters in Jenkins

10:00 p.m. – Lights out.

On the middle weekend, the men and women did laundry, switched out chaperones, and hiked up to Bad Branch Falls. Debbie Cosper treated the women to a pancake and ice cream brunch before the hike, and Faith Harmon taught the rest of the ladies the song, "Oceans." Later in the week, they all sang "Oceans" for the sisters, who begged for the lyrics and music after hearing the beautiful song. The men surprised the sisters with the song "Lord, I Need You."

A few times, the counselors accompanied the children to field trips at the swimming pool and at the recreation center. Throughout the two weeks, our students taught the children Bible stories and answered quite a few questions from the kids. The children paid close attention to whatever our seniors had to say to them. It was amazing to witness the trust the campers had in our teenagers. In turn, our students showed great patience, wisdom and compassion as they cared for the campers.

At the end of the two weeks, many parents came to see the children perform their skits. One young mother told the group she had been a camper years ago, and encouraged all the parents to show appreciation to the sisters and counselors, as she

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had learned quite a bit herself from the camp, which she still remembers and now teaches her own children.

In the afternoons, our young men cut grass and cleaned up the cemetery for Father Santosh. The MC's asked the men's chaperones and the younger men to construct a cement pillar for a statue in their backyard, which proved to be more intricate than originally thought. They also erected railroad ties to hang vertical garden vegetables for the sisters. No small tasks. They even did plumbing repairs.

The women worked several afternoons packing bags of groceries for the indigent families up the mountain — 170 packages in all! These girls also put together bags of school supplies to give away.

So as you can see, there really was very little free time for the men and women who came to serve for two weeks in Jenkins, yet I heard no complaints from our kids. What a



Some of our girls in Jenkins, Kentucky



Campers singing a song with motions



Performing one of the skits



Praise and worship with the campers

witness our young people were to the families, the sisters and Fr. Santosh. Day in and day out, they served with energy and a strength that only comes from the Lord from our time in prayer. It was truly an honor to be a part of our Alleluia Missionaries. As that young mother shared with us all at the end of camp, "You never forget what they teach you!" I hope I learned a lot!



Some of the sweet young faces

Economic Impact of the Alleluia Community

By Kurt Eyrich

Since 1973 when the founders of Alleluia Community purchased 18 deteriorating duplexes in Fleming Heights, the economic reality of Alleluia Community in South Augusta has continued to grow.

The original purchase was quickly increased to 53 duplexes. Although these properties were essentially a slum, they have been improved significantly in the 80's and 90's. Today these properties are valued on the Richmond County tax records at \$5,574,900 contributing approximately \$75,000 in property taxes.

In the 1990's, Alleluia purchased an additional 85 duplexes adjacent to our original purchase. The tax value of these properties is \$4,420,298 contributing over \$60,000 in property taxes.

Since this time, we have had members purchase properties in the surrounding area and many of their children also choose to live in this area. These additional properties total almost 100 housing units with a value of \$8,331,433 and generating over \$100,000 in property tax revenues.

This total tax impact of almost a quarter million dollars would not have been possible without the commitment of the Alleluia Community to settle and grow in this area. We also own another \$1,400,000 of commercial property in South Augusta.



Fr. Santosh and the M.C.'s with our Alleluia missionaries

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