

Alleluia

Dove

A Weekly Publication of the
ALLELUIA COMMUNITY
Augusta, Georgia



Vol. 41, No. 26

September 1, 2014

Alternate Society Series

Part of a People Set Apart

By Frank Densmore



We are continuing the theme of Being an Alternate Society with a series of personal testimonies of Full Covenant members of Alleluia taken from the book "By the Word of Their Testimony" published by the Alleluia Community in 1998 on the occasion of the community's 25th anniversary. Each issue in September will have a testimony taken from the book which will precede a testimony by a Full Covenant member of Alleluia who has signed covenant since that date.

I was born in East Liverpool, Ohio, and was raised in a fairly devout Catholic family with three sisters and two brothers. I attended Catholic grade school, and until the age of 13, led a fairly common, uneventful life. I went to confession once a month, attended Mass several times a week, and contemplated, though not too seriously, a vocation to the priesthood. I wanted to sing in the youth choir for our church, but at the first tryout was told that I couldn't sing, so I became an altar boy and learned the Mass, several

songs, and all the names of God in Latin. I did very well in school. Within my circle of friends I was very outgoing, but with others I was painfully shy. In short, I was a typical cradle-Catholic kid until events beyond my control took over my life.

In the summer before my ninth grade year, my parents separated, a devastating event for me and my siblings. I spent the next five years alternating between living with my mother and father and, when I got into serious trouble, with my grandparents. I quit going to church, my grades started plummeting, and I started getting kicked out of schools and getting into trouble with my new friends. I became more and more alienated from my family, friends, and God. Eventually, I became a loner and spent most of my time in the woods hunting or fishing or hiking. There was very little authority in my life from my parents, and my personal authority was very immature.

It took five years, but I finally graduated from high school just in time to be drafted into the U.S. Army. Suddenly, authority found *me!* I was

so scared the first week of basic training that I asked permission, from Drill Sergeant Angelino, to go to confession. (I figured that with a name like Angelino, he would understand.) I grew up in the Army, at least emotionally; and in spite of my rebellious nature, I benefitted from its structure and discipline. However, in spite of going to confession in basic training, the Army was not good for my spiritual formation. I found a lot of things which did not proclaim Jesus as Lord.

Then a miracle happened! I was riding my motorcycle through Homestead, Fla., past the USO, and decided to stop in for a cup of coffee. I had ridden past the USO hundreds of times without any compunction to go in, but this time I stopped, walked in, saw a beautiful angel, and fell in love. Her name was Debi Livingston and she glowed with the radiance of the Holy Spirit. I didn't know about the Spirit at that time, but I was smitten! Three days later, I asked her to marry me. For the next two weeks, Debi told me about Jesus and the

(Continued on page 2 - FRANK DENSMORE)

Tod, do you love (agape) me?

By Tod Densmore



Peter instructs us to always be ready to give answer to the reason for our hope. (1 Peter 3:15) The reason for the hope I have is the love of God. His gift of salvation through the sacrifice of His only Son Jesus Christ and a very special path to holiness through living covenant community.

I have always known and understood I was called by God to be a part of something special, even as a child. (Isaiah 49:1) My story involves a divided heart and an unwillingness to give myself entirely to the Lord. The amazing thing is God loves me so much He always meets me where I am. I am reminded of Jesus asking Peter in John 21:15, "Simon, son of John, do you love (agape – super-natural, perfect, unconditional love) me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he replied, "You know I love (philia – highest form of natural love) you."

I relate to Peter, because I have denied the Lord, failed the Lord and exhibited poor faith in the Lord's presence. My heart wants to be able to say unanimously, undividedly and unequivocally, "Yes, Lord, you know I love (agape) you." Somehow, all I can muster is, "Lord, you know my heart and you know I love (philia) you. Please be patient with me." So, where do I begin and where has Jesus met me?

The Alleluia Community is a charismatic, ecumenical covenant community of Christians in Augusta, Georgia. My parents moved to Augusta when I was two years old and rented an apartment in Faith Village, which happened to be owned by the members of Alleluia Community. My parents heard the Lord call them to be a part of this covenant people and signed the Alleluia covenant shortly

thereafter.

I believe the Lord's call to my parents to be a part of this people is the same call to me. I believe a covenant people is not a single generational people. I believe because my parents were called to be a part of this people, I too am called to be a part of this people, and my children are called to be a part of this people.

I loved growing up in Alleluia Community — mostly, I loved the school and the friends I made there. I loved going to support group meet-

(Continued on page 3 - TOD DENSMORE)

A People Set Apart

(Continued from page 1 - FRANK DENSMORE)

Holy Spirit, and then she said, "Yes!" Shortly thereafter, I received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. We shared some radical times working with hippies in a coffee shop in Coral Gable, with drug abusers at *Surfside Challenge* in Miami Beach, and sharing Jesus with others. Most often Debi was sharing and loving people, and I was watching and learning about true love and power which come from the Father. We were married in Homestead in July of 1971.

After tours of duty in Fort Monmouth, N.J., White Sands Missile Range, N.M., and Pirmasens, Germany, we were transferred to Fort Gor-

don, Ga. We found Alleluia Community through the *Yellow Pages*, and rented an apartment, sight unseen, next door to Kevin and Karen Murrell. It was a good thing that it was "sight unseen," because if Debi had seen the apartment first, we may not have moved. Alleluia was the most radical outpouring of the Holy Spirit that we had ever witnessed, and it continues to be so today because of the commitment of the brothers and sisters here.

I have grown up, spiritually, in Alleluia; I have come to know Jesus in a radical way because I have seen Him personally through the actions

and the love poured out on me and my family through each and every one of the members of Alleluia. I have witnessed miraculous healings of my children and my wife and have learned, through teaching and formation, how to live a Christian lifestyle. Through the grace of God, I have been a part of one of the most radical movements of Christianity. With you, I have become part of a people set apart, a people who know Jesus, not only in Latin, but personally — in English — and in the inexpressible language of the Spirit.

Frank Densmore is a high school teacher and retired basketball coach in the Alleluia Community School. He and his wife, Debi, have been Full Covenant members of Alleluia since 1976. They have four adult children and nine grandchildren and attend St. Joseph Catholic Church in Augusta, Georgia.

Love Me?

(Continued from page 2 - TOD DENSMORE)

ings and prayer meetings. I loved the opportunity to go on a mission trip to Mexico, summer camps, retreats and athletic events. I only "mostly" loved growing up in Alleluia Community because there was one part I did not love. As a teenager, I wanted to be able to date girls, which was against a very wise agreement made by covenant members of Alleluia that until graduation from high school, the children of covenant members of Alleluia would not date. This was an area I was (foolishly) not willing to let go of. I rebelled by entering into a relationship, which led me away from Alleluia.

Fast forward five years, college, and several heart breaking relationships, and I found myself working for a company that sent me to a job in West Plano, Texas for a month. For several weeks before I left, the Lord slowly began to call me back to Him. I began to read the Bible, and I even offered to Him my collection of music. I said to the Lord, "I'm still not ready to give you everything, but please accept what I can give."

While in Texas, the Lord allowed me to experience a deep homesickness. I missed my family, but mostly I missed worshipping the Lord the way Alleluia Community worships the Lord in our prayer meetings. I was unable to go home then, but I was able to locate a local Pentecostal church and I attended the Sunday service there. I worshiped the Lord by raising my hands and singing with my whole heart. After the worship service, several of the people asked if they could lay hands on me, and as they prayed for me, one woman wrote down a vision for me. She saw the Lord showering his grace and mercy on me... not lightly but like he was holding a funnel over me and drench-

ing me. I left elated and refreshed.

Later that week, I awoke to the Lord speaking a word to my heart. The word He spoke was "Andree." With the word came knowledge — I would marry Andree Donadieu, and I would be a full covenant member of Alleluia Community! Jesus asked me, "Tod, do you love (agape) me?" I replied, "Lord, you know I love (philia) you." I was still not able to love unconditionally but the Lord said, "Fulfill your call to be married and to be a part of my covenant people."

Fast forward ten years, a wedding and three children, and I found myself at another time when the Lord would again call me to more. The circumstances this time tested my trust in the Lord's provision for Andree and me. For my whole adult life, I had a mistaken understanding that I had the sole responsibility of providing for my family. I acted as though the Lord did not care about providing for us, or at least did not provide as adequately as I thought He should. I made

poor investments in real estate and business ventures and even took work that was not part of His provision for me. As a result, I was working too many hours, neglecting my family and was financially broke and spiritually broken.

I was desperate and the Lord again had mercy on me. In His mercy, He led Andree and me to attend a financial course that used Scripture to teach us about money and possessions. Did you know there are over 2000 Scriptures about money and possessions? As I studied these Scriptures, the Lord began to teach me to trust in Him to provide for my family. He healed my brokenness in this area and took away my fear of not being provided for. He led me to leave my job (in an economic downturn) and to begin to work as a carpenter. Since that day, my family has had everything we need (including a spacious new home!), I have been able

(Continued on page 4 - TOD DENSMORE)

"Treasure Hunting"

by Dan Almeter



On Sunday, August 24, Alleluia had an historic first — a treasure hunt. This is not the typical treasure hunt, but is actually a form of evangelism, using the charismatic gifts as the clues to find the treasure. And the treasure is people that God has picked to receive healing, blessing and reveal His love to.

The treasure hunters on this occasion were: Mark Wilby, Dan Almeter, Sherry Young, Anne Seith, J.P. Masak, Rebekah Kent, Joe Eyrich, Jonathan Phillips, Shayna Eyrich, Robbie Visintainer, Rachel Visintainer, Ania Hatfield, Phillip Hatfield, Dominic Germann, Colette Sullivan, Kathryn Garner and Hannah Garner. We briefly prayed together and then

spent about five minutes filling out our treasure maps.

Each person had a treasure map and had about five minutes to pray for words of knowledge. The categories to get those words of knowledge included: location (where to go to evangelize), first names, a person's appearance or article of clothing, what they might need prayer for, and then unusual clues. As we each prayed to the Holy Spirit, we wrote down those clues that popped into our heads.

Then we broke into five teams of three or four each. Then each team

(Continued on page 4 - TREASURE HUNTING)

Treasure Hunt

(Continued from page 3 - TREASURE HUNTING)

came together, compared clues and then went off for the evangelism adventure. This article doesn't have time to tell each person's story, but I will share one of mine as typical of the event.

My group consisted of Robbie Visintainer, Ania Hatfield and myself. One of the clues suggested we go to Big Lots, so we did. Once there, we immediately saw a woman that fit a clue description we had – a person with a red shirt and flip-flops. To say we were a bit nervous is an understatement! After delaying about five minutes, we finally decided to "go for it."

We approached the lady with a red shirt and flip-flops who was pushing a shopping cart and told her we were on a treasure hunt, a sort of prayer adventure. We thought she was the treasure based on the clue of a person with a red shirt and flip-flops. She smiled and said she definitely fit the description. Her husband was next to her, and we introduced ourselves to him also. Then Ania brought to my attention that one of our clues was in this lady's shopping cart. I showed the woman our clue list, which included the word "cinnamon." She reached into her cart and pulled out a big box of cinnamon mix. At that point our hearts were pumping fast. We knew for sure that this was our treasure. We

asked her if there was anything we could pray for her about. She immediately said, "Yes." She explained that their daughter was leaving for college this week for the first time. They were all nervous. So we took a brief time to pray for this whole situation. Meanwhile, the daughter going to college and another younger daughter came from within the store and joined us. Ania reminded me that another one of our clues was the word "family." So we in essence, prayed for the entire family – particularly for the daughter going to college, but also for blessing for the whole family.

We believe the family parted very blessed, knowing that God had taken a personal interest in them and singled them out to show His love.

In all, when our whole group returned and shared stories, we found out that a total of 15 people or families had been prayed over by our treasure hunting group. This is really amazing — Alleluia members praying over 15 strangers — something most of us have never before done or had the courage to do. Some groups had more success than others, but we all left very encouraged that evangelism was breaking out in a fresh way. In fact, one of the teams prayed over a person who received an orthopedic healing on the spot.

The Lord is really, really interested in our community taking on a more evangelistic mindset while at the same time balancing our call to "be a people." He seems to be pouring out charismatic gifts in an unprecedented way across the Body of Christ. These gifts, when

used to evangelize, are extremely powerful in opening people to the love of God and experiencing this love in their lives. When people experience a word of knowledge that is "right on," or experience a physical healing on the spot, it can easily lead to them giving their lives to Christ, bringing them back to church, or at the least, giving them a tremendous blessing.

Come Lord Jesus! Bring on revival!

Do You Love Me?

(Continued from page 3 - TOD DENSMORE)

to be at home for my family and I have been able to serve community. The Lord said to me, "Tod, do you love (agape) me?" I replied, "Lord, you know I love you (philia)." "Serve my covenant people," He said.

Fast forward to the present and I find there are still areas I want to give the Lord, but for one selfish reason or another, I cannot let go. In His infinite mercy and kindness, He loves me and meets me where I am. He asks me, "Tod, do you love (philia) me?" I reply, "Lord, you know everything, you know I love (philia) you." "Build my community," He says in return.

Jesus provided Peter an opportunity and the courage to finally proclaim to the Lord, "Jesus, I love (agape) you." According to Christian tradition, Peter gave everything unconditionally to Jesus when he was nailed upside down on a cross. I hope I will have the courage someday to do the same.

Jesus, my hope, my anchor, I love (philia) you. Please allow me one day to love (agape) you!



The evangelistic group of Alleluia "Treasure Hunters"

Tod Densmore is a Support Group Head and serves on the Pastoral Team in the Alleluia Community. He and his wife, Andree, are both second generation members and have been Full Covenant members of Alleluia since 2000. They have three children and attend St. Joseph Catholic Church in Augusta, Georgia.

© 2014 Alleluia Community, adm. by Alleluia Christian Service Center, Inc. P.O. Box 6805, Augusta, GA 30916-6805, (706) 798-1882. All rights reserved.