

**THANK YOU**

We had a terrific Easter! Thank you for inviting your friends to our Easter Celebration. Thanks to our Praise Team, our Ushers, our teachers, and media team. Thanks to Charity, Kim and Wes for a great job with the Easter Egg Hunt!

**CONNECTION CARD**

Please turn in your Connection Cards each week. Members, a special leaders, and guests will be asked to turn these in.



**A BIG SHOUT**

to **Keri Wozniak** for her outstanding work in gymnastics! **Keri** qualified for Regionals in level 8 (Region 5). She will be representing the State of Illinois on Saturday, **April 25 at 8:00 a.m.** at Indiana University in South Bend! Way to go!

**MOMS...MOMENTS...MEMORIES**

This Mother's Day we plan to honor mothers, grandmothers, mothers-in-law, and those who are like mothers by highlighting some of the special memories they helped create. Get ready for this special time of celebration!



**SATURDAY, APRIL 25 9 AM - 2 PM**

AT 5 NEIGHBORING CHURCHES IN DOWNTOWN ELGIN  
BEGIN AT 220 DIVISION ST.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED for volunteers. Sign up now at:  
[www.LoveElginDay.org](http://www.LoveElginDay.org)

**ORIGINAL**  
WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

PAST THE WISHING  
APRIL 23-25, 2015

rockford**first**

←----- REGISTER ON-LINE: ----->

[WWW.ORIGINALCONFERENCE.COM](http://WWW.ORIGINALCONFERENCE.COM)

SAVE THE DATE



Reinhard Bonnke  
**GOSPEL CRUSADE**

BRINGING GOOD NEWS TO AMERICA

Mark your calendars for this life-giving event!

**ALLSTATE ARENA/CHICAGO**  
**JUNE 26, 27 & 28, 7PM**

**MISSIONS FUNDRAISER**

» If you would like to donate items, contact Kenny or Rod. »

**GARAGE SALE**  
491 RIVER BLUFF ROAD

**MAY 8-9**



- APR 05 / Easter
- APR 12 / The Difference Maker  
**My Story Makes a Difference**
- APR 19 / The Difference Maker  
**My Readiness Makes a Difference**
- APR 26 / The Difference Maker  
**My Generosity Makes a Difference**

# PRAYER REQUESTS

■ Emma G.	▶ Post-Surgery Healing
■ Lily M.	▶ Dementia
■ Anabelle G.	▶ Lung Cancer
■ Andrew H.	▶ Health Issues
■ Noe F.	▶ Health Issues
■ Linda L.	▶ Health Issues
■ Elizabeth S.	▶ Health Issues
■ Kenny D.	▶ Skull Fracture
■ Trevor W.	▶ Deployed to Afghanistan
■ Jim W.	▶ Post-Surgery Healing
■ Keith K.	▶ Post-Surgery Healing
■ Paul S. III	▶ Complete Healing
■ Peggy K.	▶ Health Issues
■ Kevin K.	▶ Post-Surgery Healing
■ Danny L.	▶ Awaiting Peace Corps Assignment
■ Ralph H.	▶ Fluid in the brain
■ Jon/Sarah L.	▶ Job transfer to Illinois
■ Melva S.	▶ Cancer
■ Moe M.	▶ Lung Cancer
■ Ruth S.	▶ Undiagnosed Health Issues
■ Mark M.	▶ Cardiac Issues

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope." -Timothy Keller

04/05/15

**METRICS**  
THAT MATTER

38

ATTENDANCE

\$2,394.25

GIVING

7

GUESTS

12

VOLUNTEERS

0

DECISIONS FOR CHRIST

## ▶ JOHN 9 THE STORY OF THE BLIND MAN WHO IS HEALED

<sup>1</sup> As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup> “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup> As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup> After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. <sup>7</sup> “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. <sup>8</sup> His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup> Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” But he himself insisted, “I am the man.” <sup>10</sup> “How then were your eyes opened?” they asked.

**24** A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God by telling the truth,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.” **25** He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”

**35** Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” **36** “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” **37** Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” **38** Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

### ▶▶▶ KEY POINTS TO THE STORY ◀◀◀

- 🔑 *A man, blind from birth is healed by Jesus.*
- 🔑 *The blind man is changed by this encounter with Jesus.*
- 🔑 *The healed man finds himself before a hostile audience.*
- 🔑 *His story could not be ignored.*

**YOU TOO HAVE A STORY. . .  
ARE YOU READY TO TELL YOUR STORY?**



# THE DIFFERENCE MAKER PRINCIPLE:

*My testimony is a powerful tool that God will use to lead others to faith in him.*

## HOW TO USE MY STORY TO BE A DIFFERENCE MAKER

**1**

### CONFIRM MY STORY

*(I know I am following Jesus)*

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. *1 John 5:13*

My salvation date: \_\_\_\_\_ .

**2**

### COMPLETE MY STORY

*(I write out and practice my story)*

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup> keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. *1 Peter 3:15-16*

*You don't need a theological degree to tell your story!*

**3**

### COMMIT MY STORY

*(I write out and practice my story)*

However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace. *Acts 20:24*

▶▶▶ ASPECTS OF CONVERSION ◀◀◀

▶ *Intellectual* ▶ *Spiritual* ▶ *Emotional*

# TELLING MY STORY



1. Where were you spiritually before receiving Christ, and how did that affect you—your friends, attitudes, actions and relationships?

2. What caused you to begin considering God/Jesus as a solution to your needs or as Savior?

3. What realization did you come to that finally motivated you to receive Christ?

However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace." *Acts 20:24*

4. Specifically, how did you receive Christ?

1. What has been a turning point (or more than one) in your Christian experience?

6. What other benefits have you experienced since you became a Christian?

5. How did your life begin to change after you trusted Christ?