



# The Rincon Mountain MESSENGER

Spring 2014

Volume 2, Issue 2

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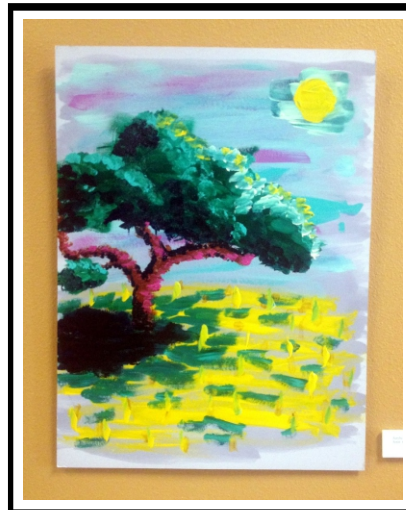
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## Art Gallery: the Wonder of Creation

As you go to get your cup of coffee on Sunday morning, you might notice the artwork gracing the walls of the west end of the Narthex. The Rincon Mountain Art Gallery is the brainchild of RMPC member Cindy Visser. Her vision was to create an encouraging place where creative works of art could be a means of introducing members to new people and to each other.

"The gallery is an opportunity for people to express their wonder and exploration of God's creation using a visual medium," according to Cindy, "Visual artists are people who observe creation and have a deep desire to express it visually." Additionally, art is a means of expressing our love and childlike delight in the Creator as we reflect His glory and creative nature.

Cindy is looking for a variety of mediums for display in the gallery: photography, drawings, paintings, poetry, and sculpture (displayed in a photograph) are just



some of the possibilities. Original artwork does not need to have a religious theme, only to reflect the artist's vision of God's creation. Submissions must adhere to just two guidelines. First, the artist must be a member of RMPC. Second, in the Reformed tradition, no images of Jesus are permitted. Submissions are then reviewed by an ad hoc committee.

Don't be shy! Share your creative vision in the Art Gallery. Then take some time to enjoy the fruits of the artistic labor of others!





Pastor Phil Kruis

## Kruis Korner

### *Ripple Effect*

If you walk along a large body of water for any length of time, you'll have to fight down the urge to throw something in. And when you do, you'll get the ripple effect. From Wikipedia: "A **ripple effect** is a situation where, like the ever expanding ripples across water when an object is dropped into it, an effect from an initial state can be followed outwards incrementally."

For Christians, the ripple effect is initiated in our lives when our hearts are regenerated and transformed through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, placing Christ at the center of our lives. "For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." (Colossians 3:3 ESV). From that moment on, the effects of Christ coming to the center of our lives can be followed outwards incrementally.

The effects of Christ's centrality in our lives cannot help but change and transform us and, by extension, the lives of those closest to us. And the effect keeps moving outward, affecting our family, our friends and the Church. As you are equipped to engage others within your sphere of influence, they will feel the effects of you having Christ at the center of your life. As Rincon Mountain Presbyterian Church is equipped to engage others in our local zip code, they will feel the effects of us having Christ at the center of our lives. As each of you are equipped to engage others in Tucson, the southwest, and throughout the earth, others cannot help but feel the effects of you having Christ at the center of your life.

You may think you are one small drop in the ocean, but consider what great effect you can make with Christ at the center of your life. With Christ at the center of your life, you should expect to make waves! You are in Christ; therefore, you are for others, and you are for Rincon, and you are for 85749, and you are for Tucson, and you are for the world. You are equipped to engage for Christ. Make some waves!

## A Word...or Two

"Are you ready to be a papa?" I'll remember that moment forever. When Bethel said those words, a mix of emotions rushed through me: fear, joy, responsibility, inadequacy. I don't think I ever felt "ready," and you probably feel the same way. Fatherhood is a task like no other because its goal is like no other: reflecting the character of our heavenly Father to our children and training them up in a relationship with Him. That's why we need to think carefully about how we go about it.

There are three basic avenues by which we train up our children: instruction, example, and correction. Regarding instruction, God has taught us all that we need to walk in relationship with Him (Deut 6:1), and we're charged with passing that instruction on to our children (Deut 6:2, 7). Your words matter, both in formal (family devotions) and informal (talking in the car) situations.

Even more important than verbal instruction is example. One of the key tenets of parenting is, "Monkey see, monkey do." Jesus powerfully illustrated humility and servanthood when He knelt to wash His disciples' dirty feet (John 13:4-5). Then He told His disciples (and us), "If I then, your Lord and

## Fatherhood

Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet" (John 13:14). What example are you putting before your children?

The last avenue is correction. It's not fun, but if you love your child, it can't be neglected (Prov 13:24). The Father disciplines us because He loves us so much (Heb 12:6)! His discipline is never designed to punish, but to curb sin and restore relationship (Heb 12:10).

Just reading this might seem overwhelming! You might be frustrated, exhausted, and feel like a failure, but that's why our heavenly Father sent His Son to pay for the failures of earthly fathers and sons. Put another way, the perfect Son died so that imperfect fathers might live. "It was the will of the LORD to crush Him; He has put Him to grief; when His soul makes an offering for guilt, He shall see His offspring" (Isa 53:10). This is God's unshakeable promise to His sons, out of which we're able to love and lead our children.



Ben Castaneda

## Connect at Rincon

The Connect at Rincon committee has as its mission to be "a model of engagement with people" to further the church's vision, "Equip to Engage." Pastoral oversight of the committee is provided by Luke Smith. There are eight committee members. The Connect committee oversees areas such as Sunday morning greeters, the Connect Cart, Inquirers Classes and Fellowship Events. The Fellowship Lunch is an ongoing event while other events stand alone, such as: the Chili Supper, Candlelight Christmas Dinner and Dance, Trunk or Treat and Trivia Night.

Pastor Luke says, "The goal every quarter is to have one event to connect with those outside the church and one event to focus on those inside the church." The committee has a cross section of church members and meets in the evening on the first Tuesday of the month. Luke also thinks it important to empower those in the church to help committee members accomplish the goals of Connect at Rincon. This is a ministry that will only thrive with wide congregational involvement.



Pastor Luke Smith

### Hey Y'all! *The Great Omission*

When people find out you're having your first child, you get lots of advice. Out of the many things shared with me in recent weeks, one bit of advice from a Christian friend has stuck with me: "You need to let your child figure out a lot of things on his own and that will prepare him for having to figure out a lot of life on his own." This particularly troubled me. Have we as Christians been so influenced by our broken culture that we default to individualism, disregarding coming alongside others to build them up, equip them, and do life together? This is discipleship. We need not forget that discipleship broadly includes teaching moments in corporate worship, age-specific education classes, and Life Groups. But what of life-on-life discipleship?

One scholar recently noted "From Jesus' way of discipling others we learn that discipleship is the drama of real life that takes place on life's main stages." Jesus' own call to discipleship is his gracious invitation to follow him (Matt. 4:19; 10:38), an invitation by which he is saying "Do life with me!" Going at life alone is the way of the "old self" that Christians are instructed to put off for the "new self"—individualism is "not the way you learned Christ!" (Eph. 4:20). As I was reminded recently by a NT commentator, "The final outcome of Christ's call to discipleship is God-dependent, Christlike individuals and communities maturing in the context of the unending rule of

God. And these maturing, transformed people and communities are called to have a transformative influence on their personal, cultural, economic, scientific and political surroundings until Christ returns." Are we engaging in transforming relationships? As we see our covenant children at church, greet each other in worship, encounter next-door neighbors and clerks at Safeway and waitresses at El Molinito—are we asking how the Lord might use us to disciple them? Are we asking more mature believers to disciple us so we don't have to figure out life by ourselves?

Gospel-focused discipleship helps transform the world around us into a Christ-centered culture. In speaking of the decay of our culture, evangelical Christian writer Cal Thomas suggested that a lot can be attributed to the failure of believers to engage in such transforming discipleship: "The problem in our culture...isn't the abortionists. It isn't the pornographers or drug dealers or criminals. It is the undisciplined, undisciplined, disobedient, and Biblically ignorant Church of Jesus Christ." Might he be correct in such an assertion? Have we reduced life as a believer to merely dwelling on the eternal things of God—surely a necessity—instead of desiring to be a student of Christ in the here and now by engaging with God's Word and engaging with others? If we are not making disciples, we are not following the Great Commission—and that is a great omission.



## Castanedas in Uganda

by Ben Castaneda

Before being called to serve at Rincon Mountain, Bethel and I taught at African Bible University in Kampala, Uganda from August 2012 to June 2013. As a by-the-way, it's the same university where the Knights serve (missionaries that Rincon supports). I want to share a little about our time there.

Bethel and I had been asked to teach at ABU by an old pastor of mine. The university is built on the side of a hill in a suburb of the capital city. Most of the students there are preparing for the ministry; however, a pastor almost always has to be bi-vocational in Africa, so everyone also minors in another field (education, business, or radio broadcasting). Bethel taught several courses in business and general studies, while I taught Bible survey courses, Greek, library orientation, and helped with the sports program. We led a small-group Bible study for the students, had several movie nights in our home, did one-on-one discipleship and mentoring, and I was asked to preach a number of times in community churches. On top of that, Bethel also delivered Jonathan while we were there!

The church in Uganda is vibrant, bustling, and full of life. Traditional Lugandan and Swahili praise songs would often

be blended with English hymns during the worship service. Unfortunately, the prosperity gospel (the lie which says that if you have enough faith, God will give you wealth and good health) can be seen and heard everywhere, from billboards to pulpits. That's why institutions like ABU, which train up faithful pastors, are so important.

During the Christmas break, one student from Malawi (a country about 4 days away by bus) didn't have the funds to travel home, so we invited him to stay with us. Whilst I wrestled with turning some juniper branches into a serviceable Christmas tree, he helped us decorate by cutting out paper chains and snowflakes, stringing popcorn, and even making a paper angel for the top (a very foreign experience for him)!

Some of my favorite memories are of our next door neighbor, John. His wry sense of humor, belly laugh, and requests for beignets kept us entertained many an evening. Other favorite memories include Greek review sessions (so much fun!), careening through busy city streets on the back of a boda boda, and listening to the students sing in chapel. Overall, it was a wonderfully busy year that stretched us, matured us, and drew us closer to each other and to Christ.



Ben, Bethel and Jonathan Castaneda with friends at African Bible University.

## Missions Update

On June 22nd, Jerry and Karen Knight will be visiting RMPC. They are missionaries that Rincon supports in Uganda, East Africa. Planning is still underway for their visit. The Missions Committee is also looking for local outreach opportunities to foster the Church mission of "Equip to Engage."

The Chile mission trip currently has three volunteers. We will be contacting John Rug in Chile to work through some planning activities. There is no firm date yet for the trip, but the three who have expressed interest want to go in the November time frame, which would be summer in Chile.



## Church Work Days

At least once a quarter, on a Saturday, Rincon Mountain has a work day which gives men in the congregation an opportunity to maintain the church building and surrounding grounds. Work starts at 7 am and goes to 11 am with a break for breakfast and fellowship at 8 am. A dedicated team of men fix a complete breakfast that keeps the energy level high.

Tasks involve clearing brush and weeds around the property and along the roadway.



The portables are continually maintained with caulking and painting, and gravel has been spread between them. The exterior and interior windows of the building are made sparkling clean, and the sanctuary is given a good dusting. Work days are always a great time of fellowship and service, a way to give thanks for the wonderful worship facility that the Lord has provided Rincon Mountain.

## Valley Male Chorus Concert a Blessing

The Valley Male Chorus of Rock Valley, Iowa, blessed RMPC with a concert of praise on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The thirty-two men of the Chorus have been singing God's praises together for 41 years and representing the ministry of Hope Haven for 35 years. The concert consisted of a wide repertoire of songs including a spiritual, an oratorio, and many classic hymns.

The volunteers of the Valley Male Chorus travel the country sharing about the ministry of Hope Haven. With over 30 programs, Hope Haven serves approximately 1,485 children and adults with disabilities. Their various vocational programs include: work activity, sheltered work, work adjustment, and community-based employment in the vicinity of Rock Valley. Their international program provides wheelchairs to those in need in Romania and Guatemala, as well as services in 105 other countries.



The 85 attendees at the RMPC concert enjoyed an encouraging performance and rejoiced to be able to participate in the ministry of Hope Haven through a Love Offering. We hope to welcome the Valley Male Chorus back to the Old Pueblo again!

## San Antonio Trip Update

*by Ben Castaneda*

Hey all! I want to remind you that the San Antonio Mission Trip is coming up fast on June 21-29! We'll be helping Luke Evans and Christ Church San Antonio put on their first VBS, hang door hangers in the community, pass out flyers, and much more. We're excited to see God in action as our plans come together. We had been wondering where we would stay in San Antonio, and in answer to prayer, we'll be staying free of charge at a

nearby UMC church! Sign-ups for going on the mission trip are now open until Wednesday, April 30. Talk to Ben Castaneda about how you can be a part of what God is doing in San Antonio!



**CHRIST CHURCH**  
San Antonio

## Join Us On a Jungle Safari!

This summer of Vacation Bible School will take us on a trek into the jungle where kids will explore the nature of God. The curriculum emphasizes five basic characteristics of God and would be a great introduction for unchurched children. Children will be engaged in experiential learning through music, drama, games, crafts, and service. Here are the basic details for our program this year.

Date: June 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>

Time: 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Ages: 3 years old to 5<sup>th</sup> grade



Online Registration starts April 1<sup>st</sup> at [www.rinconpres.org](http://www.rinconpres.org). We are praying and preparing for another great year of fun and gospel learning, but we need your help. It takes an entire congregation working together to make a VBS successful.

Here are some ways that you can help the effort:

1. Pray for the planning, staff, and kids who are coming.
2. Volunteer to help teach and work with kids during VBS.
3. Help us publicize by taking poster and invitations to give to neighbors, relatives, and friends.
4. Stop by the VBS table in the narthex to donate or loan supplies.
5. Attend VBS Prep Day, Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, or VBS Set-Up Day to help us prepare materials and decorate.

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Find us online! [www.rinconpres.org](http://www.rinconpres.org)

## Calendar

### WEEKLY

#### Mondays:

·Men's Study, 7 pm. *Grant Brown*

#### Wednesdays:

·Staff Prayer, 3 pm. *Phil Kruis*

·Study Hall, 4 pm. *Ben Castaneda*

·Youth & Family Group, 6 pm. *Ben Castaneda*

·Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm. *Luke Smith*

**Thursdays:** Women's Study, 7 pm. *Joelle Smith*

**Fridays:** Mountain Men Study, 6:30 am. *Phil Kruis*

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays:** College & Career Dinner & Devotion,  
 6:30 pm. *Ben Castaneda*

### APRIL

**Tues. 8<sup>th</sup>:** Taco Dinner at Women's Center. *Linda Anibal*

**Thurs. 17<sup>th</sup>:** Maundy Thursday Service, 7 pm.

**Sun. 20<sup>th</sup>:** Sunrise Service, 6:30 am. *Home of Rob & Kathy Matte*

**Fri. 11<sup>th</sup>-Sat. 12<sup>th</sup>:** High School Ladies Retreat *Bethel Castaneda*

### MAY

**Sun. 4<sup>th</sup>:** Guest & Fellowship Lunch, 12 pm. *Dave & Val Crain*

**Tues. 13<sup>th</sup>:** Taco Dinner at Women's Center. *Linda Anibal*

### JUNE

**Sun. 1<sup>st</sup>:** Guest & Fellowship Lunch, 12 pm. *Dave & Val Crain*

**Tues. 10<sup>th</sup>:** Taco Dinner at Women's Center. *Linda Anibal*

**Sat. 21<sup>st</sup> - Sun. 29<sup>th</sup>:** San Antonio Mission Trip. *Ben Castaneda*