



The Rincon Mountain MESSENGER

Winter 2015

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Rincon helps with Make A Difference Day

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Steve Corn and Victoria Wates smooth out playground sand.

On October 25th, Rincon Mountain had fourteen people take part in Make A Difference Day, the largest single day of volunteering in the nation. Along with other civic organizations, Rincon Mountain provided volunteers to do clean-up, playground restoration and painting at three schools in the Tanque Verde School District.



Greg Wates helps with playground improvements at ACES.

Pastor Phil commented, "As we serve our community through good works we build up good will that provides the platform for sharing the good news." We look forward to taking part again in similar outreach opportunities.

"Equip to Engage" Radio

It is exciting news that Rincon Mountain now has a weekly radio program, Sunday mornings at 7 am on 104.1 KQTH. We are the only faith-based program on the FM dial in Tucson (outside just Christian music). For broadcast, pastors Phil and Luke prepare a shorter version of their Sunday sermon, one that is more evangelistic in nature. The gospel message is going out to thousands since the listenership of the station is 40,000+.

Pastor Luke says, "We hope that some listeners will be directed to our website and search for more about Christianity and about Rincon. And of course we hope that many will be incited by the gospel preached to start attending our church." We pray for the long-term success of this spiritual excursion onto the radio waves.





Pastor Phil Kruis

Kruis Korner

Prospero Ano

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

What a compelling and encouraging verse to meditate upon as we go into a new year! The context of the verse reminds us that the great prophet and deliverer of Israel, Moses, has died, and the nation of Israel stands poised to enter the Promised Land. The baton of leadership has changed hands and now Joshua receives these powerful and strong words from Yahweh.

Here we are, standing poised to enter a new year. Like Joshua, we do not know what foes we will encounter. All we know is that "there are giants in the land." So God tells us, just as he told Joshua, that we will have good success in all that we will do, and we will make our way prosperous.

English speakers wish others a "Happy New Year" while those in Spanish speaking nations say, "Prospero Ano" or "Have a prosperous New Year." In order to have a prosperous New Year, we must be strong and courageous, keeping God's law in our mouths and meditating on it day and night (Joshua 1:8). The word of God hidden in our hearts is essential to our prosperity.

There are many ways you are encouraged at RMPC to keep God's word central to your life:

- The Sunday morning sermon is always going to expose you to God's word so that you more clearly understand the gospel, having heard it preached.

- The Sunday school classes, from the preschool to the adult classes, will always have biblical themes and principles as their foundation.

- A plan for reading through the Bible in a year is included in the bulletin and on the website.

Here are some additional ways you can keep the word central to your life:

Encourage your Life Group to memorize a verse or even an entire chapter of Scripture for the year. Call it your theme verse for the year. Recite it and rehearse it at each Life Group meeting.

Read a portion of Scripture each day with your spouse or entire family. Choose a verse or passage to memorize as a family. Make it your verse or passage for the year and recite it often.

Take some time each day or each week to be quiet and meditate on the Scripture you heard preached on Sunday or that you read that morning. Meditation simply means hiding it in your heart, then bringing it to your mind throughout the day.

I am praying that RMPC is going to experience an unprecedented year in spiritual growth and numerical growth in 2015. It won't be because of clever advertising or creative/innovative additions to the worship service. It won't be because I'm going to try harder or because you're going to try harder. It will be because we are going to maintain and strengthen our focus on God and his Word.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Missions Update

The upcoming Honduras trip in July 2015 will be led by Pastor Phil Kruis. Planning and fund-raising are in process.

The eyeglass collection has gone well. Collected glasses are going to be distributed between the Rugs in Chile, the Pettengills in Honduras and the Knights in Uganda.

Trunk or Treat

The second annual RMPC Trunk or Treat was held Friday, October 31st, in the church parking lot. One hundred and forty children visited, which was a fifty percent increase from the first year. Sixteen trunks were featured, several showing great creativity.

The winning trunk was a Collins/Bunch combo trunk with a military theme. Each visiting group was handed an invitation to our church and to the Christmas Eve service. Trunk or Treat is becoming a very successful outreach event.



Elaine Behling created an autumn-themed trunk.



The winning trunk, created by the Collins and Bunches!



Pastor Luke Smith

Hey Y'all! BBQ Takes Time

I was recently invited to someone's house for a party. Now, while their company would have been enough to receive their invitation, I happily (and hungrily) accepted when they told me "We're having BBQ." If you're from Memphis like me, you know BBQ—Memphis is BBQ. Where you go to eat BBQ is as tribal (and sacred) as where you go to church. Thus, you can imagine how disappointed I was when I showed up to the house and they were cooking hamburgers and hot dogs on the grill. While I love all things grilled, that's not BBQ. See, BBQ is a slow process where you might brine your pork—yes, pork—for several hours, season it with sweet and savory spices, and then let it smoke for several more hours or even overnight (without going to sleep). You savor every moment of the process, knowing exactly what you're going to get on the back end: a foretaste of heaven. BBQ takes time.

In Memphis, if you want good BBQ you won't find it in the nice parts of town. The higher classes of society don't know how to make good BBQ because they often don't appreciate the slowness of it all. Memphis has a couple of the poorest zip codes in the United States, and guess where you find the best BBQ? Yep, you guessed it! Life moves slower for those less

fortunate. More simply, life moves slower for those whose lives aren't cluttered with the busyness of trying to stay with the times, keep up appearances, or climb ladders. But it's not just the poor folk, it's people like the photographer who waits all day for just the right light to take one frame. It's the painter who waits for one slight turn of the muse's cheek to project that glimpse of sheer beauty onto canvas. What good comes to those who wait, for those whose lives are slower? Foretastes of heaven—God's goodness and glory captured in brief moments of time otherwise maybe unrecognizable or, at least, unappreciated when life whizzes by.

In this new year, you will have countless things to do and people to see and you can get lost in the hustle and bustle of it all, imitating the White Rabbit from *Alice in Wonderland*, never having any time to stop and appreciate what's before you. You will be tempted to try to cram it all in while life speeds past you, without realizing much of what just happened to you and your family or who you encountered. Will life be slower for you this year? If it is, you'll have to make it slow—like BBQ. Good BBQ takes time and seldom goes unappreciated. So does life.

A Word...or Two

Are youth an important part of the church family?

I doubt anyone would say no, especially given our theology. At RMPC, we believe the Bible teaches that God relates to his people through covenants (see Gen 17:7; Deut 6:1-2; Acts 2:39), and God includes even their children in the community formed by his promises. They are members of God's family and heirs of God's promises. As a result, God commands us to pass on our faith to the next generation (Deut 6:6-7); when we don't, the effects are disastrous (see Judg 2:10-12).

Biblically speaking, then, youth are absolutely vital to the church. But here's a question to get us thinking: if they are so important, do we treat them as such? What is our attitude towards them?

I think there can be some hesitancy to interact with youth, probably because they often have a poor reputation. To a degree, that reputation can be true. At times, youth can be loud, immature, and irritating...but then again, so can some adults! Youth are in a period of life when they are trying to make sense of life. They're testing boundaries, figuring out how to relate to other people, and asking the "big questions."

That's why youth *need* the whole church family. King Solomon framed the whole book of Proverbs as words of wisdom from parents to a son who is approaching maturity (Prov 1:7-8). That's the same kind of attitude—one of instruction and mentoring—that the church family should have towards our youth.

But practically speaking, what does that look like? Here are some suggestions:

Greet the youth on Sunday morning. Get to know their names. Pray for them on a regular basis (and let them know you're praying for them!). Consider bringing a meal for them on Wednesday evening to Youth & Family Night and spend some time getting to know them. Think about being a regular inter-generational partner/mentor at Youth & Family Night. These are all ways we live out our conviction that our youth are important to the church family.



Pastor Ben Castaneda

Dracula: Good Triumphs Over Evil

by Phil Kruis

As a pastor I do a lot of reading. I read the Bible, but I also read a lot of commentaries, books about the church, books about the culture, and a number of articles and blogs on the internet. I have found that, given the amount of reading I do, it is helpful to read a healthy dose of fiction. Fiction relieves my mind from having to work so hard to digest and retain what I am reading. Fiction also helps feed my imagination and fuel my creativity. But I was a bit unsure when someone from my church suggested that I read Bram Stoker's *Dracula*.

From the moment I picked it up (free on Kindle) I was drawn right in. The attention given to detail when describing various scenes and, more importantly, when developing characters is why this book has long been considered a literary classic. Because of the sensitive and provocative subject matter, Stoker is careful to devote the majority of his character development to those who valiantly fight against evil and fight to save those affected by it.

Though the title of the book is *Dracula*, the evil count's character is the least developed of any of the main characters: his inner thoughts and motivations are never exposed, but simply and clearly portrayed as evil. The affliction and distress of those affected by the attacks of Dracula unmistakably and poignantly address the insidiousness of evil. On the other hand, the qualities and devotion of the protagonists who fight against him are well-developed and clearly viewed as good and noble. The protagonists are also very clearly Christians who rely heavily on prayer and Scripture to do battle with the foul and wicked Dracula. While our culture today glorifies evil, calling good evil and evil good, and glorifies vampires—something Bram Stoker never does—there is no doubt which is which in the pages of *Dracula*.

Rincon Goes Caroling

by Ben Castaneda

RMPC had about eighteen people of all ages join us for caroling at two local care facilities. We had a wonderful time singing about our Savior and sharing the joy of His birth with our community. It was also a touching experience as



we interacted with people who struggle with crippling health issues. One elderly lady couldn't remember her own name, but she could still remember the words to the carols we sang. It was a blessing to be able to bring a bit of joy into the facilities we visited and to point the residents and caregivers to the only true Source of joy, Jesus Christ. We hope you join in next December!



Operation Christmas Child

RMPC was thankful for the opportunity to again participate in Operation Christmas Child. The annual program, sponsored by Samaritan's Purse ministries, provides shoebox gifts to over 113 million children around the world. Contents of the shoeboxes include small toys, school supplies and discipleship lessons. As stated by Franklin Graham, "Every shoebox offers an opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with a hurting child." Rincon's coordinator for the project, Mark Barnard, was pleased to announce that Rincon provided 126 boxes to the project, a record number for our church.



Rincon donated a record 126 boxes for Operation Christmas Child 2014.

Christmas Choir Concert

On December 7th we were blessed with the RMPC Christmas Choir Concert. The choir started working on the music in August, accompanied on piano by Lori Jorg. The concert consisted of ten pieces, including "Once in Royal David's City," "Carol of the Bells," and "Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God." This was the first Christmas concert that made use of the new hanging choir mics. Pastor Luke says that the mics "enable the sounds from the back of the stage to fill the room as they come through the loudspeakers." Following the concert there was a dessert reception which further helped everyone get in the Christmas spirit.



The RMPC choir rejoicing in Christmas song.

Calendar

WEEKLY

Mondays:

- Women’s Study, 1:00 pm. *Janie Craig*
- Men’s Study, 7 pm. *Grant Brown*

Tuesdays:

- Women’s Study & Children’s Program, 9:30 am
Lisa Collins

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*

Fridays:

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

2nd & 4th Sundays:

- College & Career, 12:30 pm. *Ben Castaneda*



FEBRUARY

- Sat. 7th:** Manly Breakfast for Youth, 8 am. *Ben Castaneda*
- Sat. 7th:** Inquirer’s Class, 9 am. *Phil Kruis*
- Tues. 10th:** Taco Dinner at Women’s Center. *Linda Anibal*
- Sat. 14th:** Father/Daughter Valentine Brunch, 10 am. *Laurel McKinley*
- Fri. 20th:** In Focus, 6 pm. *Joelle Smith*
- Fri. 27th:** Fourth Friday, 6:30 pm. *Dana McReynolds*
- Fri. 27th–Sun., March 1st:** Winter Youth Retreat. *Ben Castaneda*
- Sat. 28th:** Women4TruthConference, Chandler, AZ. *Beth Miner*


MARCH

- Sat. 7th:** Manly Breakfast for Youth, 8 am. *Ben Castaneda*
- Sun. 8th:** Guest & Fellowship Lunch, 12 pm. *Dave & Val Crain*
- Fri. 20th:** In Focus, 6 pm. *Joelle Smith*
- Fri. 27th:** Fourth Friday, 6:30 pm. *Dana McReynolds*
- Sun. 29th:** Trivia Night. *Luke Smith*

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