



December 2009

The Word of God **NEWSLETTER**

an
ecumenical
charismatic
missionary
Christian
Community

Want a good way to pass on skills & relationships?

Second Generation Crafts Corner

By Michelle Flanagan

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And More ...

During the summers when I was growing up, my mom would have the girls in the neighborhood over for a "Crafts Corner." We would sit outside in the front yard and my mom would teach us how to cross-stitch, crochet, latch-hook rugs, and other crafts. It was during this time that my mom taught me about community and fellowship while teaching us about crafts and the joy of taking something in one form to make something new.

Over the years I've crocheted many afghans, sewn several quilts, cross-stitched, and created scrap-books. I'll often give the afghans and quilts away. As I'm making them, it gives me



Reviving a blessing from her past, Michelle Flanagan (left) has been passing on craft skills & interest to her peers like her Mom did for her by holding Craft Corners periodically.



Craft Corner brings together sisters from the community, churches, and other friends—and is a chance to build relationships across the generations! Passing on skills, encouraging one another, building relationships—they are a great expression of the Kingdom.

a chance to pray for my friend who will receive the blanket, for their families, for my family, and for things going on in my own life.

Ideas get knit together

A couple of years ago, my mom and my aunts and I went to a yarn shop in the middle of nowhere, Pennsylvania. Looking at all the yarn, knitting needles and knitting tools, I was inspired to knit an afghan for myself. For two years, I had my knitting needles with me everywhere, always pulling them out to work on another square for the afghan. As some of my friends saw me knitting, they asked me if I could teach them. Others were inspired to get their knitting needles or crocheting hook out

Seems to me ...

Expecting the unexpected

By Phil Tiews

I think by definition you can't do it. If you expect something, it would no longer be unexpected. It's one of those oxymorons, like 'boneless ribs' or 'conspicuously absent' or 'airline food'.

Certainly two thousand years ago no one was expecting God's unexpected action. Sure some, though not all, Jewish folks were looking for the Messiah, but the rest of the world was going about its business. What God actually did, coming among us in Jesus, fit no one's expectations—under the radar, out of the blue, coming from left field. Totally unexpected.

What else could we expect from God who flat out tells us, "...my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways..." (Isa 55:8). He surprised the whole world that night in Bethlehem. Good thing, too!

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So what are your expectations for your life, the community, your church, our county and country? Ha! You can bet that isn't God's thought! Whatever he is about it isn't what we think of when we project into the future because of that difference between his thoughts and our thoughts.

I find this both disturbing and encouraging. Disturbing because I don't like being surprised and having to change course. I like orderly ducks in neat rows. God does, too! He is not the God of chaos, but of order and purpose — its just his order and purpose are not ours! His ducks line up differently.

So there is the unsettling knowledge that I will need to stay light on my feet and loose in my hold, however there is also the great encouragement that God has something different up his sleeve than I can see. I find it hard to expect that Washtenaw County could overflow with the works of the Kingdom, or that the Lord could use us to bring renewal and maturity to another generation of Christians, or that churches in our area could truly work together. Since I can't expect it, that means these unexpected things are candidates for what God expects!

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I know that on that first Christmas I would not have been expecting the Savior of the world to show up in a manger. What unexpected thing does God have for us now?



Crafts Corner [continued]

Hands on outreach!

again to continue working on that project they started many years ago.

After being asked several times to teach some of my friends how to knit, I was reminiscing about the times of my childhood when my mom would host "Crafts Corners." I decided to start one of my own. I also wanted to provide an opportunity for my friends to get together for fellowship. So at the beginning of this year, I invited people over to my mom's house which is a central location with a much larger living room space than mine for tea and crafting. We gathered together in the living room and had tables set up so that people could work on their scrapbooking, knitting, crocheting, or whatever craft they brought. It was a great time of fellowship!

Crafts Corner takes shape

We've been having the Crafts Corners every other month and we really enjoy our time together. We're always adding someone new to our group. It's a chance to catch up on what's going on in our lives, to share ideas, and drink tea. And, the fact that we're able to get just a little bit more of our particular craft done is a plus too!



Having passed on her love of crafts and sisterhood to her daughter Michelle, Terri Flanagan is blessing another generation of women by opening her home to the Craft Corners and taking part herself!

If you are interested in finding our more, call Michelle about the next day of crafts, tea and sisterhood.

We Shepherd Kings

by Vincent dePaul Curran

Editors Note: For many years Vince Curran has written a Christmas poem and we have shared these in the Newsletter for the last several years. Vince has spent the last few months having intestinal surgery and in recovery so he is a little behind in writing this year's poem! In its place we are presenting the first in the series from 1993.

The children lay upon the ground
Filled with joy, amazed at the sound
Of angels dancing all around—
The sound of dancing all around.

The shepherd parents could not hear,
Their ears were blocked by ageless fear.
Things unchanged, not better or worse,
The sameness of the living curse.

Then hark the herald angels sing
The arrival of our newborn king.
The hearts of children leapt with joy,
But parents thought it some new ploy.

What gift is there that we can bring
To lay before the infant king?
We have no frankincense, no myrrh,
We have no gold we can confer.

One angel from the others stood
And tried to reach them, best he could.
With this new word from heaven on high,
To put an end to shepherd's sighs.

There is one thing that you can bring
To glorify the King of Kings
And that one thing's a heart of love,
Our only touch with God above.

And in that love, He'll see the face
Of His Father's sanctifying Grace
And then He'll know that He is home
Though set upon the earth to roam.



For the Father gives us
each our measure
Asks only that we share
our treasure
With father, mother,
sister, brother.
The gift of ourselves
with one another.

Christmas, 1993

Relocating to better serve our mission

Community Office Moving

After almost a decade at our current location, The Word of God community office is moving to 3800 Packard, Suite #260, just to the west of where US 23 goes over Packard Road. When our current lease came up for renewal we looked around and discovered that we were able to get twice as much space for what we are now paying for the office and renting meeting rooms for the men's and women's Breakfasts. The new location not only provides for our office needs, but will have a meeting room, a kitchenette, and two extra offices.

We will be able to hold the Breakfasts at the new location, but we now have a place for other meetings and outreaches without having to rent facilities. For example, Jenny Geyer is exploring a combination women's group and children's play group that could meet during the day as an outreach to young families. We can hold Life in the Spirit Seminars or other events at the new place as well.

After all the years of folks from Ypsilanti patiently driving to the west side of Ann Arbor, they are going to appreciate the more central location, as well!

More details will be coming, but we will need some help with moving and settling in our new home. If you have ideas for how we can use this new resource for the Kingdom, please talk with someone on the Leadership Team!



A wall across the end of this room will create 2 offices for Julie and Phil, but will leave a meeting area bigger than our old meeting room at Collingwood.

If you turn around and look the other direction, you can see in the picture below the rest of the meeting room, the kitchenette on the left, and on the right

two offices which can be used for small meetings or kids. There is also a storage room behind the kitchen area. Altogether a great space to server our needs and do outreach!



What happens when we listen to the Lord's priority for our prayer?

'... appalled that there was no one to intervene...'

By Anilú Seromik

Editor: All this year we have been emphasizing the Lord's call to us to pray. Here Anilú Seromik shares how the Lord has focused her attention in intercession recently. This was originally written for the University Christian Outreach Newsletter, but it is an encouragement to us all!

For many years, a sister in the Lord and I have been meeting together every Saturday morning for intercession. Our intercession has taken many forms and many roads throughout the years. Occasionally we feel called to go into the streets of Ann Arbor and do spiritual battle for a certain neighborhood or school. We are just two moms in a car, praying and intervening, trying to "stand in the gap" (Ezekiel 22:30). Many times we have seen God act powerfully and this has always encouraged us.

Three or four weeks ago, we set out to pray around the U of M campus. We went at our usual time—between 7:30 and 9:30 am. As we drove by the many student houses, dorms, fraternities and sororities, we saw the typical tailgating scene. It was shortly after 8:00 am and there were hundreds of kids partying on the streets, drinking or already drunk. Our hearts ached as we realized that, although most kids would rather sleep in on a Saturday morning, they got up early for THIS!

As I searched their faces, I could see a desire to be loved, to be accepted, and to fit in. I could also see pain. I realized that these kids are considered bright, smart and successful; this is the reason they got into U of M. Yet, they are being deceived at the most basic level: their priorities have shifted to whatever steals life away and has no lasting purpose.

I'm sure we all know this. We have heard it and have seen it. I have driven many times through campus. I have had two of my own children go through U of M and two are in the process. This is not new. Yet, that morning I felt like the Lord woke me up! I have prayed for protection for my kids, and I have prayed for their classes, their friends and their teachers. I have also prayed for their living situations, but I have not prayed for the many, many other kids who have no one to pray for them.

As I prayed more about that Saturday morning, and after I went back the next two Saturday mornings, I felt that the Lord wanted more intercessors. We don't want the Lord to be "appalled that there is no one to intervene" (Isaiah 59:16).

I was never in UCO myself, but many of you who are reading this either are or were part of UCO at some point. I would like to challenge, invite and exhort all of you who were blessed through UCO to wrestle in prayer (Col 4:12-13) for all the kids in college. It is not enough that the community kids or those in UCO are protected. Let's not limit God. Let's pray for revival and let's pray for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Let's pray for a New Pentecost. Would you be willing to fast on Wednesdays? Or regularly pray for the new generation—for leaders among them—for boldness?

How about doing a Jericho prayer around the campus of the university or college near where you live? Drive or walk with a prayer partner and claim back that which is God's creation!

"The Lord will march out like a mighty man, like a warrior he will stir up his zeal; with a shout he will raise the battle cry and will triumph over his enemies." (Is 42:13)



For years Anilú Seromik has interceded along with a prayer partner. But recently she has experienced the Lord giving her a special focus for the students at the University of Michigan. If you would like to join with her in this challenge to seek the Lord for University students, you can e-mail her at seromiks@rc.net.

How is the Lord calling you to pray?

What strikes at the core of a man's appetite?

Hungry for God — and Pancakes!

By Don Mierendorf

The Band of Brothers Breakfast (B3) has been meeting monthly on a Saturday morning for the last couple years. Our format includes a prayer time, breakfast, a practical “field demonstration”, and a presentation on a Christian topic.

We have a pool of a couple dozen brothers, young and old, with 8 to 12 guys showing up each time. To start, two of us prepare a simple breakfast while the rest of us pray prayer-room style. After breakfast we have an “expert” (at least more “expert” than us) present a practical demonstration of something inherently interesting to men.



‘Field Instructions’ cover topic deemed ‘inherently interesting to men’. Here Bill Alcini instructs us on kayaking. Other topics have ranged from woodworking to digital music to wiring to astronomy. Brothers share their expertise and passions and the we get some insight into all the different ways to express our calling as men.

Demonstrations have included power tools, electrical wiring, musketry, white-water rafting, bicycling, budgeting, alternative fuels, the universe, and kayaking. All that and only one trip to the ER so far. [Editor’s note: technically it was one trip, but it did require a helicopter and two ambulances.] Sometimes our expert will use a slide presentation but usually the “show and tell” style (with related equipment and any explosions) is the bigger hit.

Then we conclude with a presentation and discussion of a Christian topic. We have recently read and discussed John Eldredge’s book *Wild at Heart*,

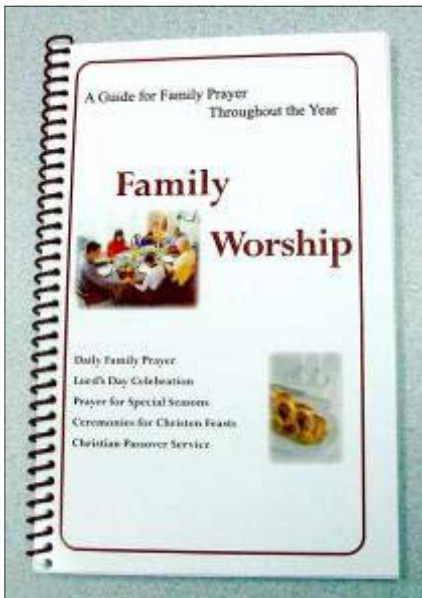


The first Saturday of every month, the Band of Brothers Breakfast, or B3, is the place for Christian men to be! Prayer, fellowship, discussion of challenging topics, ‘field instructions’ — and of course a high energy breakfast. What more could you want to kick start your day on your walk as a Christian man.

which has called us on as men in the Lord as well as given us sage advice in raising our own sons. It’s all male-bonding time for us, and what better bond to have than the Lord?



Our chefs, including Todd Hillaker, Pat O’Connell, and others are outstanding! Join us the first Saturday of the month and get fed body, soul and spirit! See you soon—and bring a friend, relative or son!



Reprinted Family Worship Book
Available at The Word of God office and
prayer meetings
Special Offer—\$5 !

Join us!

- 12/12 Women's Breakfast, 9–10:30am**
Covenant Presbyterian Church
5171 Jackson Road
- 12/20 Prayer Meeting, 4:30–6:00 pm**
Christmas Gathering!
Covenant Presbyterian Church
5171 Jackson Road
- 1/10 Prayer Meeting, 4:30–6:00 pm**
Covenant Presbyterian Church
5171 Jackson Road

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