

# Nevertheless, we fish

Rev. Lance Hoff, Alpha Board member

**Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because You say so, I will let down the nets." Luke 5:5**

There are quite a number of words that could characterize our Christian faith and life...like "Christian"...for Christ is the heartbeat of all. Or we might think of theological words like "Redeemed" and "Justified." Or how about "Faith, Hope, and Love?" How about the word "NEVERTHELESS?" That doesn't quite seem to fit.

BUT the verse above says it does. As a professional fisherman, Simon Peter knew how to catch fish. And when Jesus says in the middle of the day, "Put out into deep water and let down the nets for a catch," that was contrary to his every instinct. We can imagine Peter thinking: "Jesus, You don't know the first thing about fishing...you're certainly no fisherman." He could have quoted plenty of statistics from "Field and Stream" and his own experience that would say there is no way that he would catch any fish following Jesus' instructions.

"Master, we've worked all night and haven't caught anything. But (there it is! the NEVERTHELESS) because You say so, I will let down the nets." How often you and I do the same.

Who, for instance, can understand the deep mysteries of our faith...like the Trinity. One plus one plus one equal one. It just doesn't add up! Or the virgin birth...that just doesn't happen. And how can a man raise the dead, or how can God die? And how was Jesus able to take your place and live your life and die your death? We can quote

the verses but do we fully understand what is behind them? NEVERTHELESS, moved by the Holy Spirit, we believe...just because He said so.

In our daily lives, how often are we faced by situations beyond our power to fathom?

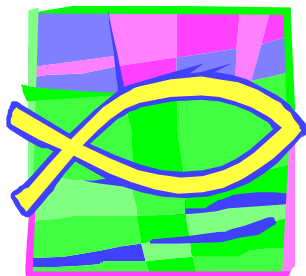
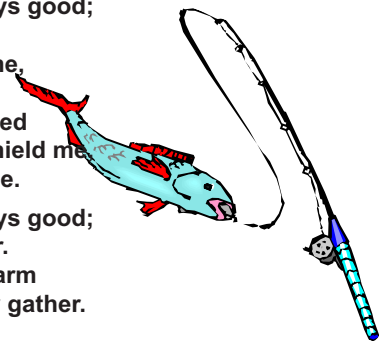
Why does the twelve year-old face a crisis pregnancy, while the couple that wants so desperately to be parents, faces month after month of disappointment. And why must I bear this heavy cross? And what purpose does God have for me in His world?

We may not have the answers; NEVERTHELESS, our Savior knows, and because He does, we'll trust Him...and we let down our nets and continue to fish.

So you see, in a sense the Christian faith and life are one great "NEVERTHELESS." Our knowledge of God's ways with us is limited, but we know His love for us in Jesus is unlimited... and so we continue... NEVERTHELESS.

**What God ordains is always good;  
His will is just and holy.  
As He directs my life for me,  
I follow meek and lowly.  
My God indeed In ev'ry need  
Knows well how He will shield me  
To Him, then, I will yield me.**

**What God ordains is always good;  
He is my friend and Father.  
He will not let me suffer harm  
Though many storms may gather.  
Now I may know  
Both joy and woe;  
Some day I shall see clearly  
That He has loved me dearly. (CW 429 v.1 & 3)**



- 'Wish lists — p. 2 and p. 4 and p. 6 and p. 7
- Belated tribute to Mothers, p. 5
- '06 "To Live Is to Share" recipients announced p. 6
- Come celebrate at the Alpha banquet & auction, p.7

# Breath of Life

BRINGING GOD'S WORDS OF LIFE TO EACH GENERATION

we praise God for his continued blessings in our lives, and trust in His wisdom to help us see the good He is surely working through our challenges.

- A gift has been given in honor of
  - **Rebecca Berg** by Sarah R. Berg
  - **Marianne Schmidt-Smith** by Rebecca Manke
  - **Ben & Shirley Alba** by Erv & Gloria Huebner
  - **Grace Marko** by Sandi Haseleu

Love for you, love for Life!

- A wish for a blessed 50th anniversary to **Earl & Alice Schulz** in the form of a gift from Gus & Inez Kalfahs!

Gifts have been given in memory of

- **Marygene Huggett** by Linda Parpart
- **Alice Schmitz** by Grant & Marlene Gentz, Rev. Reuben Schmitz family, Dorothy Schuett, Hugo & Mabel Guenterberg and Mike & Gail Maron
- **Mrs. Merle Zastrow** (Bonnie Blumer's mom) by Beth Kietzmann
- **David Zwiig** by Dorothy Schuett
- **Mary Connor** by Beth Kietzmann
- **Elizabeth Schmeling** by Gus & Inez Kalfahs
- **Renee Beguhl** by Ron & Linda Hertig
- **Kenneth Kietzmann** by Lorence & Muriel Schuster, Elsbeth Kietzmann, Jerry & Eleonore Franzmann & Jim & Kim Winters
- Thanks to Him for allowing us to use the time and talents of counselor Christine Breitreutz and receptionist Barb Gurgel. We wish them a grateful farewell as they serve God in other arenas, and remind them we'll always be open for them to return.
- We wish LORD's blessings on board member Mr. Russ Weir. Russ recently left Wisconsin for the sunny clime of Arizona; we thank him for his enthusiastic contributions to this ministry during his tenure. May we be provided with as fervent a replacement.
- We also give a special prayer of thanks that the LORD has enabled our National Office to once again hold a sure-to-be inspiring, informing and motivational Convention, to be held this year on October 26-28 at the Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan. We who have gone to national Conventions in the past assure

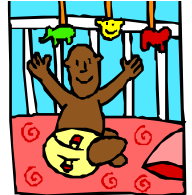
you it is well worth the time and effort to attend. There are topics for absolutely everyone, whether you consider yourself "active" in life issues or not, plus activities for families and kids. Contact us with any questions you may have!



- **newly used toddler-size socks**

The "Peoples' Bible" books, esp:

- **Matthew**
- **Mark**
- **John**
- **Luke**



Groups are encouraged to assemble layette packs as gifts to the Center to be given out to new mothers. Content lists for the layettes are available by phone (261-9207) or email request!

## Umbert the Unborn by Gary Cangemi



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their lives. Their tributes follow:



- Ⓞ In memory of Minnie Huebner & Ruth Krueger  
—Erwin & Gloria Huebner
- Ⓞ In honor of Elaine Knief for 55 sweet years of mothering  
—Deb Troge & grandchildren, with love
- Ⓞ In memory of Mom-Grandmother Evelyn Israelson  
In honor of Mom-Grandmother Joyce Hertig  
—Ron Hertig family
- Ⓞ In memory of our grandmothers  
In honor of our mothers & the mothers of our grandchildren  
—Al & Barb Jeffers
- Ⓞ In memory of Grandma Paula Berg  
In honor of mom Adela Berg  
—Linda Berg
- Ⓞ In memory of Mother Viola Klug  
—Louise Kurtz



*To be blessed with a Christian mother is to reap the blessings of one of God's most sacred callings.*

## ~ATTENTION KWIK TRIP CUSTOMERS~

### YOU CAN ASSIGN YOUR KWIK REWARDS REBATE TO HELP ALPHA

To participate in this program, complete the "Kwik Rewards Fund-Raising" information contained at the bottom of the on-line Kwik Card application (see example of how to fill it out below), or, if you're already a cardholder, pick up a Kwik Rewards Fund-Raising designation Postcard at any KT store or either way by calling 1-800-305-6666.

As a Personal Kwik Card user, you earn a Kwik Rewards rebate of 3¢ per gallon on every gallon of fuel you purchase, PLUS a 3% Kwik Rewards rebate on all in-store purchases you make with your Kwik Card.

Alpha will receive your account's quarterly earned Kwik Rewards rebate and in addition, Kwik Trip will donate an additional 1% of the amount equal to your in-store credit purchases made with your Kwik Card. That's 3¢ per gallon and 4% on in-store credit purchases to help our ministry!



Kwik Rewards Fund-Raising Information			
<b>8</b>	I authorize the following charity/group/organization to receive my Kwik Rewards rebate on a quarterly basis.		
Charity/Group/Organization Name	Alpha Life Resource Center		
Address	313 E Main St.	City	Watertown
State	WI	Zip	53094
Telephone	920-261-9207		

Give our info like this  
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# Breath of Life

BRINGING GOD'S WORDS OF LIFE TO EACH GENERATION

Kimara Winters, Center Director

When you opened this edition of our newsletter, just *perhaps* you said to yourself, "Hmm, it's been awhile!" If that's the case, first—thanks for noticing! Then, you would be so right. In another edition, I will so much enjoy sharing with you some awesome stories that have been evolving here at the Center, but right now, I need to cut to the chase:

We need volunteers willing to spend some time at the Center. There's no way we can touch lives with the Gospel if we can't staff the Center—if we can't be here when 85% of our visitors come to us, i.e., on a walk-in basis. Please contact us to explore whether you can make a difference in these lives. Call me at home if you'd like! (262-0108)

And the opportunities are varied! There are many ways to be actively involved with the ministry of our Life Resource Center. You could...

1. Support the Life Center and its staff with your prayers. Include in your prayers a plea that you be granted a full measure of wisdom in discerning how you can act further to support Alpha's ministry.

2. Be a Receptionist. Receptionists greet visitors as they arrive at the center and record basic information such as the client's name and address. Perhaps she offers to watch children while moms talk with counselors. General office tasks, such as answering the phone and scheduling appointments, clerical help including thank you writing, and light housekeeping duties are her responsibility only as she is willing. Open hours vary five days per week. Time commitment: a 3 hour shift anywhere from once a month to once a week, plus a staff meeting 2 times a year.

3. Be a Counselor. The basic duties of the counselor are to meet and counsel the clients at the center, and to follow up with phone calls and/or letters of encouragement.



The counselor offers scriptural based counseling on topics such as chastity, living together, parenting, adoption, abortion, marriage, baptism, and God's plan of salvation. The counselor's goals include: making the client aware of her spiritual needs; sharing the good news of Jesus Christ; calming the client's anxiety by showing Christian love and concern; and educating the client about pregnancy and abortion. Office hours vary five days per week. Time commitment: a 3 hour shift from once a month to once a week, plus 3 staff meetings per year.

4. Be a Hotliner. These dedicated women answer our 24 hour hotline during the hours the center is closed. The calls are forwarded to the hotliner's home phone. The hotliner answers the phone during her scheduled shift, takes down the appropriate information from the caller, gives directions to the center and schedules appointments. Time commitment: one or more days/nights a month in your own home, plus a staff meeting 2 times a year.

5. Serve on our Board. These men are responsible for the administrative dealings of our Chapter and Life Center. Beside chair, treasurer and secretary, positions include property manager, recruitment, congregational liaison, fundraising, public relations and special events directors.

## ~ RECYCLE INKJET CARTRIDGES & CELL PHONES ~ RECYCLING PROGRAM HELPS ALPHA



Alpha Center is participating in a cell phone/ink cart recycling fundraiser. There's nothing to buy. We are simply asking you to protect the environment by donating your used digital cell phones and ink jet cartridges. They will be recycled in accordance with EPA regulations or refurbished and sold. 100% of the proceeds will help fund the Center. Bring them into the Center or call for pick up (261-9207). We appreciate your support!

Alpha is excited to welcome “Koiné—the church band” as the entertainment for our upcoming banquet on Saturday, October 7 at the Luther Prep Auditorium beginning at 7:30 PM.

The concert follows the banquet and silent auction, but will be open to anyone, apart from banquet attendance. Admission to the concert will be \$5.00, with proceeds benefitting the ministry of the Alpha Center. Families pay no more than \$20.00 to attend. Doors open at 7 PM, and light refreshments will be available.

Koiné consists of five regular members: Benj Lawrenz-guitar, Pete Reese-bass, Bob Buss-drums, Seth Bauer-piano, and Brian Davison-vocals. The group is the regular ‘house’ band at St Marcus in Milwaukee each Sunday evening, but has garnered a significant following over the last year, performing at over 15 states across the country.

Koiné’s music is difficult to describe because it consists of a variety of different genres of music that have impacted each member, and each member brings their own style and

feel to the band, which creates a dynamic presentation. If you grew up Lutheran, many of the songs you’ll hear from the band you will recognize as songs sung in Lutheran churches throughout the country. Yet you certainly have not heard the hymns like this before, featuring bass guitar, drums, piano, and more—it’s a bit of a renaissance of sorts for Lutheran music—and produces a sound that transcends to all reaches of life—to the heart of everyday life.

**Common language. Common people. Extraordinary message. That’s what Koiné was in the 4th and 5th century in then Macedonia: the common language of the people. It’s a Greek term, and was the language the New Testament was written in.**

**Today, Koiné is again a voice for the common people, and again with extraordinary message. Koiné — the church band, is a contemporary Christian band, bringing a new vibrant sound and feel to traditional Lutheran and Christian songs.**

*(Most straight from the Koiné website—see next page for e-address.)*

## Chocolate Sings *—email submission in honor of the Ice Cream Social!*

One day I had a date for lunch with friends. Mae, a little old “blue hair” about 80 years old, came along with them. All in all, it was a pleasant bunch. When the menus were presented, we all ordered salads, sandwiches, and soups, except for Mae, who said, “Ice cream, please. Two scoops, chocolate.” I wasn’t sure my ears heard right, and the others were aghast. “Along with heated apple pie,” Mae added, completely unabashed. We tried to act quite nonchalant, as if people did this all the time. But when our orders were brought out, I didn’t enjoy mine. I couldn’t take my eyes off Mae as her pie a-la-mode went down. The other ladies showed dismay. They ate their lunches silently and frowned.

The next time I went out to eat, I called and invited Mae. I lunched on white meat tuna. She ordered a parfait. I smiled. She asked if she amused me. I answered, “Yes, you do, but also you confuse me. How come you order rich desserts, while I feel I must be sensible?” She laughed and said, with wanton mirth, “I’m tasting all that’s possible. I try to eat the food I need, and do the things I should. But life’s so short, my friend, that I hate missing out on something good. This year, I realized how old I was.” She grinned. “I haven’t been this old before. So, before I die, I’ve got to

try those things that for years I had ignored.

“I haven’t smelled all the flowers yet. There are too many books I haven’t read. There’s more fudge sundaes to wolf down and kites to be flown overhead. There are many malls I haven’t shopped. I’ve not laughed at all the jokes. I’ve missed a lot of Broadway hits and potato chips and cokes. I want to wade again in water and feel ocean spray on my face.

I want to sit in a country church once more and thank God for His grace. I want peanut butter every day spread on my morning toast. I want UN-timed long distance calls to the folks I love the most. I haven’t cried at all the movies yet, or walked in the morning rain. I need to feel wind in my hair. I want to fall in love again. So, if I choose to have dessert, instead of having dinner, then should I die before nightfall, I’d say I died a winner, because I missed out on nothing. I filled my heart’s desire. I had that final chocolate mousse before my life expired.”

With that, I called the waitress over. “I’ve changed my mind,” I said. “I want what she is having, only add some more whipped cream!” Remember that while money talks, CHOCOLATE SINGS!



# Breath of Life

BRINGING GOD'S WORDS OF LIFE TO EACH GENERATION

a row, enabled by generous grants from the Jefferson County Chapter of Thrivent Financial, WalMart and other area businesses, we will be assembling basket-type kits to be given out in encouragement of a particular segment of the community.

Past years have included baskets for those struggling with a life challenge, new mothers and unpaid caretakers of the sick, dying or disabled. This year's project is taking a bit of a turn to encourage the teens. There are young people among us who are committed to purity, there are those needing education and information, and certainly there are those struggling to remain sexually pure until they are married.



with encouragement to sexual activity; from skimpy choices of dress in the department stores to health departments passing out free condoms, our teens are surrounded by a

No one with eyes or ears needs to be told our society, our community and even our homes are filled

teens have it tough on dates—movies are filled with sexual innuendos and activity, radios are loaded with bumping and grinding music and so few places invite teens in to hang out in a positive, active environment (the Watertown ROC being a wonderful exception!). Without a plan, teens face an uphill battle.

Alpha Center has a brochure titled "If We Don't have Sex, What Do We Do?" that offers general suggestions to teens interested in finding alternatives to sexual activity when they're with their significant others. This year's "To Live is to Share" will elaborate on that idea with a local version of the brochure, and their kits will include gift certificates and coupons, goodies, accessories and lots of scriptural reminders of why staying pure until marriage is both God-pleasing and just plain smart, even from a human perspective.

The goal is to provide 100 kits to teens in relationships. They can be provided with or without a presentation to groups of teens. If you'd like to donate toward this project or would like to make sure teens in your congregation or organization have an opportunity to receive some of these kits, please contact the Center at [alpha@core.com](mailto:alpha@core.com) or 920-261-9207. The kits are expected to be available in late November.

## World Wide Web Watch

Life "sitings" for all you surfers out there...



Alpha's new internet service provider—notice our new email <[alpha@core.com](mailto:alpha@core.com)>

[www.core.com](http://www.core.com)

For photos and clippets of music we'll hear at our October 7 banquet/concert, go to:

[www.koinemusic.com](http://www.koinemusic.com)

An area teen, Miss Jordan Berg, has agreed to get Alpha on the web! Her website is:

[www.meridianwebdesign.net](http://www.meridianwebdesign.net)

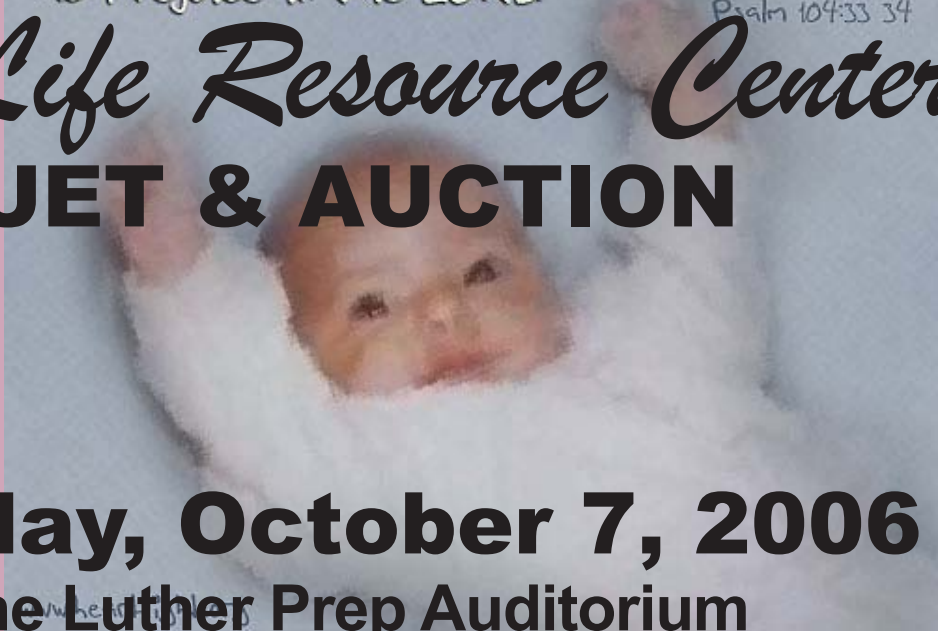
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BRINGING GOD'S WORDS OF LIFE TO EACH GENERATION

I will sing to the LORD all my life,  
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.  
May my meditation be pleasing to him,  
as I rejoice in the LORD.

Psalms 104:33 34

## Alpha Life Resource Center BANQUET & AUCTION



**Saturday, October 7, 2006**  
at the Luther Prep Auditorium  
Corner of College & Western Aves. Watertown

- 5:00** Silent auction browsing & appetizers  
**6:00** Buffet dinner catered by Augie's Elite  
**7:30** Concert by Koiné – the church band  
(Doors open to concert-only attendees at 7 PM)

*Ticket for a for a fun night out: \$25.00*

*Gathering with family & friends—table of 8: \$150.00*

*Concert only: \$5.00 or \$20 per family (pay at the door)*

*Support of Alpha's Gospel ministry: PRICELESS*

Contact us by mail or stop by our offices to purchase tickets



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Return your mailing label below with your check before Sept 24 to reserve your place! Ticket(s) will be mailed to you.