

# Breath of Life

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## Come to me

Pastor Dale Hella, Deacon, St. Mark Watertown & Alpha board member

Just above the altar at St. Mark's church in Watertown the following words are embossed in large golden letters:

**KOMMET HER ZU MIR  
ALLE DIE IHR MUHSELIG Y BELADEN SEID  
ICH WILL EUCH ERQUICKEN.**

Those of you who know German realize these are the words of our Savior from Matthew 11:28...

**"COME TO ME, ALL YOU WHO ARE WEARY AND BURDENED, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST."**

Such a wonderful offer! What a sweet invitation! Especially to those who feel weary and burdened. From too much work. From the problems and responsibilities of everyday life. From sorrows...or sickness. From the grim realities of death...and dying.

Most important, to those who feel weary and burdened in their conscience...and in their soul. Weary and burdened on the inside. Weary and burdened with regard to spiritual things. With regard to sin...and forgiveness. With regard to salvation...and everlasting life.

How about you? Do you feel weary and burdened?

If so, then Jesus invites you to come to him. "Come to me" says our Lord and our Savior.

"Come to me." In faith.

"Come to me"...in faith...is the invitation of the gospel when we are told that God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. On the cross. To take away all of

our sins. When we are told that in him...in Jesus...we have redemption through his blood...the forgiveness of sins.

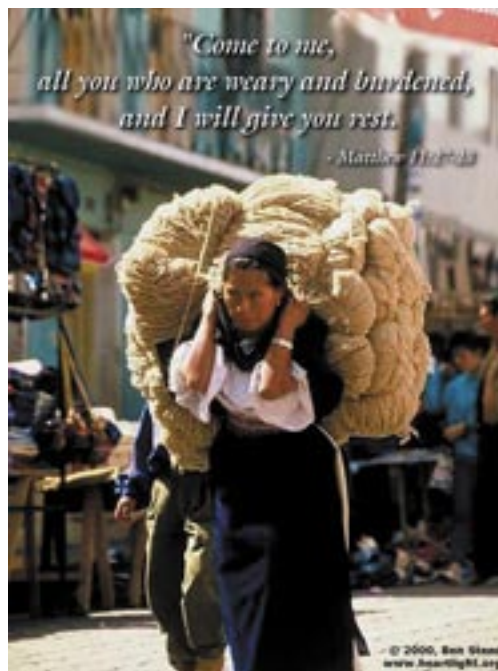
When we are told that he...Jesus...is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

"Come to me"...in faith...was the invitation of Jesus to the Samaritan woman at the well when he offers her the living water of the gospel.

"Come to me"...in faith...was the invitation of Jesus to the paralytic lying on a mat when he says to him: "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."

"Come to me"...in faith...was the invitation of Jesus to the woman caught in adultery when he says to

*see Come to Me, p. 2*



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And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8

# Pray, Praise and Give Thanks



Thank you, Pastor Hella, for your poetic description of the modern day continuation of the Savior's Biblical invitation to come and rest in Him. When we meet these souls at the Center (see page 4 for examples), it is a beautiful and hopeful sight. Blessings are ours as we see visitors answer His call, and as we volunteers get to hear the call to our own souls echoed time and time again. In this world of stressful busyness, what a welcome reminder that sorrows shared are often sorrows halved, and Jesus stands ready to listen whenever we seek him out.

Please join us in a prayer of thanks for new counselor Leah Uttech from St. Matthew Oconomowoc, who has graciously filled some of our Thursday evening shifts, and also allows our Spanish-speaking visitors a chance to speak direct, as Leah is bilingual! Jackie Bauer from St. Mark Watertown and Sarah Lange from St. Paul Ixonia have also applied as new counselors; we look forward to seeing more of them!

Our sympathy to receptionist Elaine Kirst, as she recently saw husband Gene leave for his eternal home in heaven. Imagine the heavenly choir now! Counselor Linda Sielaff and receptionist Shirley Bobholz have been dealt physical challenges that ask for our prayers for continued recoveries and patient spirits.

## Alpha Center Wish List

- \*\* cribs and mattresses \*\*
- \*\* carseats, any size \*\*
- \*\* pack-n-play type fold up playpens \*\*
- disposable diapers (sz 2 and up)
- baby wipes
- gently used winter coats sz 12 mo-6 yrs
- baby hygiene items (wash, lotion, etc.)
- children's clothes up to size 6 (especially the larger sizes...since they wear out much more often, we don't get as many donations of them, but the need is just as strong)



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*Come to Me, from p. 1*

her: "Neither do I condemn you."

"Come to me"...in faith...is still the invitation of Jesus today. To weary and burdened sinners. To you and to me. And to the women who visit our counselors at the Alpha Center! For the past 25 years. Going through a difficult time. Perhaps an unexpected pregnancy. In need of emotional support. Or some other personal crisis.

"Come to me"...in faith...Jesus says to them through our counselors..."and I will give you rest." Rest for their conscience. And rest for their soul. Being assured that their sins are forgiven...and forgotten...in Christ. Hearing the good news that they have peace with their God through Jesus.

That they have forgiveness. And salvation. And everlasting life. In heaven. Forever.

"Come to Jesus"...in faith...is the invitation of our many counselors to hundreds of weary and burdened women every year. As they offer Scriptural guidance and encouragement. As they distribute Bibles and brochures. As they connect clients to local congregations. And then by God's grace and by the power of his Holy Spirit...many do come! Their children get baptized. They get married. They attend Bible class. They start going to church. They confess their faith in Christ.

"Come to me" says Jesus. In faith.

"Come to me." Amen.

## Volunteers needed: could this be you?

- Receptionist
- Helpliner
- Counselor
- Congregational Contact Person

Our ministry continues to ask you to prayerfully consider joining our bridge ministry to the Gospel for those in need within our communities. Now is the perfect time to join an organization that needs more hands to do the work there to do. The first step for WELS members is to ask for no-obligation info about whether it might work with your schedule. Call 261-9207 or 800-924-6073 or e-mail office@alphalifecenter.org



SUPPORT THE

# ALPHA LIFE RESOURCE CENTER

*Love in Action*

1 JOHN 3:18

*Alpha  
Center*

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

## BANQUET & AUCTION

OCTOBER 16, 2010 • LUTHER PREP

### AN EVENING OF FINE FOOD, MUSIC AND SHOPPING...

that helps enable our Gospel-driven ministry reach those in need in the church and community. Your support makes it possible for God's truth on Life, pregnancy, parenting, marriage and relationships to be shared with hundreds of people this year. The celebration starts at 4:00 with drinks and hors d'oeuvres while you shop the auction & fellowship, and finishes with an excellent catered meal, dessert & live music. Start your holiday shopping while your dollars work to help others (supplemental funding provided by Thrivent Financial)!

*Purchase tickets in September!*

*\$30 each*

*\$55 couple*

*\$200 table of 8*

*Add \$5 each ticket after Oct. 1*

SEE REVERSE FOR TICKET INFO, OR  
BY CALLING 920.261.9207 OR  
EMAILING [OFFICE@ALPHALIFECENTER.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@ALPHALIFECENTER.ORG)

*Yes, please count me in and reserve tickets for me at this year's banquet!*

**# tickets:** \_\_\_\_\_ If ordering by September 30: \$30 each, 2 for \$55, 8 or more @ \$25  
After Sept. 30, \$35 each, 2 for \$65, 8 or more @ \$30

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

(preferred way to contact?) **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

(preferred way to contact?) **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name(s) of others in your party** (preferred, but not mandatory to reserve tickets):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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cut and return to 313 E Main St., Watertown, WI 53094 • you will receive confirmation of your registration!  
Don't hesitate to call with questions: 920-261-9207

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## *Alpha Center Banquet & Auction • October 16, 2010 • 4 PM • Luther Prep*

Delafield Brewhaus ale, wine, punch and hors d'oeuvres await you as you browse among the 100+ silent auction items. Whether your car needs a tune-up, you'd like to get a leg up on Christmas presents or your adventurous side is looking for a vacation destination, our assortment will have something for you!

*How about a Christmas Mountain Resort retreat? How about a weekend in the historic, beautiful northern Wisconsin town of Florence? There's more! Yes, we have vacations this year!*

Here's a sample listing of some of the wide variety of business and individual donors who have supported our efforts in the past:

Keck's Furniture, Brown's Shoes, Green Bay Packers, Eberts Greenhouse, david j Photography, Mimi's Hallmark, Towne Cinema, Curves for Women in Watertown, Upper Krust, SNAP Fitness, NPH, Walmart, Piggly Wiggly, Abiding Word, Tyranena Golf Club, Badgers, Brewers, Admirals, Bethany quilters, several Ladies' Aid groups, Berres Brothers, Mary Kay Director Deb Troge, ISB Community Bank, Jim's Downtown Style & Trim, Watertown Daily Times, Tires Plus Watertown, Edible Memories/Nancy Fischer, Schauer Art & Activities Center, Berres Brothers Coffee Roasters, JP Kitchen Design Studio, The Market merchants, Hale's Corners, Family Video, Ruth Parker/Young Living, Kraemer's Dairy, Avon/Karen Schadt, YMCA Beaver Dam, Fine Details, Gentle Hands Massage, Fendt Brothers Meat Market, Perkins Watertown, Flower Box, Ponderosa Beaver Dam, Essential Elements, Wildtree/Sarah Moore, Tires Plus, Pennzoil Watertown, J&A Studio in Johnson Creek, Holiday Inn Express, Barb Lemke/Young Living, Generation Jewelers, Watertown Bowl 18, Z-Farms Christmas trees, Oakridge Dental, Y's Way Flooring, Milwaukee Bucks



## JADED COUNSELOR DISEASE AND ITS CURE

Sometimes, on a gloomy day, a day when something else—illness, job stress, time crunches—is weighing heavily on their souls, volunteers at the Center can fall prey to the “everyone’s a taker” infection. The malady manifests in lethargy and negativism that no matter what a counselor might gently say or generously offer a client, it’s either not enough or already deemed worthless. Some visitors make it fairly clear that their problems are beyond mere mortal counseling, and God apparently couldn’t care less, or they wouldn’t be in this mess to begin with. More free assistance programs would, however, be acceptable.

A quick 1 Timothy 1:15-16 refresher, kind words from a friend and a strong cup of coffee often help alleviate the sickness, but there are moments when God decides to take things more firmly in Hand to bring his weary workers back in line. Here are two of those divine interventions.

### The coachable one

Mary walked into the Center simply having seen the sign outside and wondered if she could talk to someone. A woman who had introduced her to Jesus a couple years ago was now leading a life that seemed to Mary to be outside of the Way, and Mary was struggling to understand her own faith as a result. Yes, she had children from multiple fathers and yes, there were money issues in her



young marriage, but most of all, Mary desperately wanted a Christian friend who might help her move toward a closer walk with her Savior.

From day one, Mary ponders every word the counselor said. Words of Life are shared; better yet, Mary takes them home and reads them again! Parenting suggestions are implemented, marital tips are appreciated. Mary comes in hungry and thirsty for the

Word—a singular blessing—and in so being, slaked the sickly thirst of a counselor in need of revival.

### The prodigal one

The first time Henry walked in, he single-handedly destroyed not just the day, but the week and more of the counselor who listened to his sweet, sad story and earnest counseling room prayers. She promptly handed over a sizable assistance check meant to help keep a motel roof over his and a young daughter’s heads for another week, and smiled as Henry wished God’s blessing on Alpha Center. Days later the counselor found out Henry was a player of the first order, and had used the boon Alpha’s assistance provided to drug binge with other funds.



Fast forward over a year, and diseased counselor sees Henry’s name in the appointment book. She rushes to call the counselor scheduled for that shift and proceeds to describe—with no small amount of vitriol—the slug that is Henry. Second counselor appreciates the warning and stood ready to not believe a word out of Henry’s mouth.

Second counselor reports that Henry asked for not a thing. He mentioned the assistance he had received the year prior and that he had been motivated to change; he has been in a regular apartment for a while now. He and the counselor shared a devotion—that exact day’s reading from a “through-the-year” devotional, in which the reader is admonished to not profane the Lord’s name for gain. Henry said he needed to hear that. The counselor says he has asked for a second appointment, to talk again.

God only knows what’s in store with Henry. Regardless, the lesson is learned, and hope is restored with a gentle balm. God doesn’t need us to work His miracles, but He occasionally lets us in on the progress. Please don’t ever think your support doesn’t matter.



## **Alpha Banquet & Auction • October 16**

Please talk to your friends about a fun night out enjoying fellowship, shopping, eating and supporting our ministry, and buy your tickets soon! Luther Prep is again hosting the event that begins at 4 PM with socializing and shopping the 100s of wonderful items on auction, including trips and one-of-a-kind treasures. Our silver anniversary will celebrate with an extra special supporter treat as well. Please see the insert inside for details.

## **National Convention • November 13**

The Convention is themed "Guide Me" and will again be hosted by St. Paul in Slinger. If you've been, you know how much Gospel-centered, educational, inspirational material is presented at this event. If you've never been, this should be your year. You will not regret giving up this Saturday to learn more about God's Word on Life. Go to [clirevents.com](http://clirevents.com) or call the Center and we will mail you registration information.

