



Breath of Life

VOL 25 NO 1 • SPRING 2008

Fall Back, Spring Ahead

Pastor Clark Schultz, Alpha Board member

As soon as I finished typing this devotion I did what you did that night and set my clocks ahead one hour.

I like this time of the year; it means it stays lighter longer and, God willing, we see the sun in the sky for more hours of the day.

This little task of clock setting got me to thinking about our spiritual situation. How has your day been going so far? Have you had more darkness? Has the thought of your sins or how you have treated those around you left you cold like the March air? Well then Easter is a great time for us to “fall back”—fall back not on your own accomplishments but fall back on the blood of Jesus. It is there that we receive total and complete forgiveness. Christ led a perfect life and died FOR YOU, so believe him when he says (Matthew 11:28) **“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”**

Knowing that we are forgiven, that motivates us to “spring ahead.” We spring ahead into our lives with the warmth of gospel in our hearts, with a fresh outlook, a 2nd chance, a new life as Paul tells us (2 Corinthians 5:17) **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!**

During this clock setting ritual some will say it’s a good time to check your batteries and make sure they are charged up. Again, I don’t know what your spiritual situation is...but I ask, how are your spiritual batteries? Maybe you are feeling drained with financial problems, maybe the stress at work, school or home is getting to you. Maybe it’s time to recharge our spiritual batteries. We do that by staying plugged into God’s Word. If we are feeling distant from God, whom do you think has moved? God? Or Us? As I tell my students, so I remind you: stay charged up in the Word.

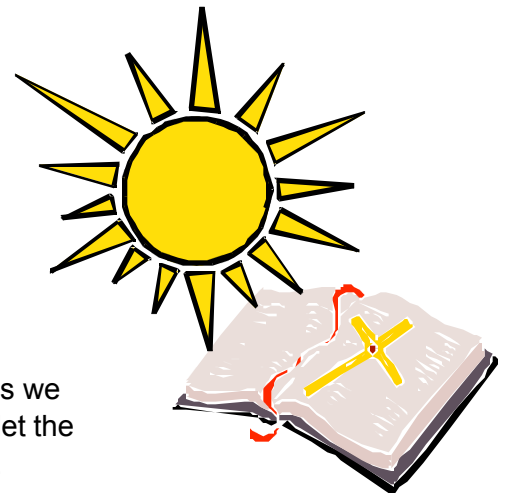
(Hebrews 4:12) **For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, this word has the power to overcome death.**

(Psalm 107:20) **He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.** It’s the Word that is your physical and spiritual life source

(Romans 1:16) **I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.**

As I stated before, it is lighter longer, and the sun will shine more, as we celebrate the gift of a new life that God has given us. Fall back on HIM, let the gospel motivate you to SPRING AHEAD and look to the SON for warmth.

God bless you!



Pray, Praise & Give Thanks

Our thanks to Pastor Clark Schultz for his devotional words of encouragement, along with a hearty welcome as he joins our Board of Directors after the annual meeting election in January. He is joined by Pastor Reuben Schmitz, whom we welcome back to the board. Both men belong to Immanuel In Farmington. Thanks to God for willing hearts of service!

Special thanks to Tom Schwefel and our friends at the Flower Box here in Watertown. Tom has been generous for years as the help in securing beautiful roses or the annual Mothers Day rose sale. We look forward to another wonderful experience this year.

Praise to the One in control as the WalMart corporation approved a \$1,000 grant toward the operation of the Alpha Center. Our local WalMart also continues to be generous and we certainly appreciate their positive response when we present needs.

We have recently been blessed with the following tributes and memorials:

- ◊ In memory of Howard Maertz from Gert Maertz
- ◊ In memory of Eldyn & Dorothy Pitzner from Lee & Dianna Pitzner
- ◊ In memory of Isaiah Foley from Tim & Lori Luetzow and from Harry & Frieda Luetzow
- ◊ In honor of her 12 great-grandchildren from Luanna Fenz
- ◊ In memory of Raymond Tomhave from Elna Tomhave
- ◊ In memory of Kenny Minor from James & Elsa Yohn
- ◊ In memory of Irene Wolske from Terry & Beth Lundsten and from Gertrude Kuester
- ◊ In memory of Raymond L Neisius from Alexa Neisius
- ◊ In memory of Norman Bischoff from Ardis Bischoff
- ◊ In memory of Carol Baer from George Baer
- ◊ In memory of Ron Kohls from Judy Kohls

New volunteers!!

Welcome to receptionist Kathleen Eickmann (Trinity, Watertown)! There is also wonderful news to report after our mentor training days in early February. We had 23 individuals attend the workshop we held to discuss the opportunity of starting a mentoring program out of Center. 11 new faces were in attendance, and several have indicated a willingness to continue with us as we pursue this ministry extension. Watch for more details as the year



progresses, and always if you should feel a tug in your own heart, never hesitate to contact the Center or Kim Winters directly for more info.

Wish List

◊ **Occasionally we are asked what the Center is in need of on a regular basis, so we try to keep a current wish list that anyone is more than welcome to supply! These are typically things for which we have ongoing use, so multiples are welcome.**



- **NIV Bibles**
- **office supplies, especially reams of copy paper, plastic spoons, HP ink cartridges #56 & 57, post-it notes, postcard stamps**
- **new sippy cups**
- **gently used playpens (ideally pack & carry)**
- **For Library: People's Bible books Matthew, Mark, Luke & John**

We give away clothes for children from birth to toddler size 4. All we ask is that they be clothes you would be proud to put on your own children- they don't need to be new! Right now we seem to run short of the size 18 mo to 4T clothes for both girls and boys (especially sleepers and pajamas). Donations can be dropped off at the center during our office hours. Any questions, contact Nancy Schmitz at 920-253-8984.

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NEWS FROM IN AND AROUND THE CENTER

Keep those prayers coming for the babies—seen & unseen

Perhaps you have heard the statistics from pregnancy care centers—across the board for some years now, the numbers of pregnancy tests being done are going down. It has never meant for Watertown that we've been seeing fewer clients; it's simply meant they have needed help outside of a pregnancy test. Reasons may include that store tests are more accurate and much less expensive than in the past, or that so many more people get tested for sexually transmitted infections on a regular basis, and that panel of tests includes one for pregnancy. 2007 saw a new low for the Alpha Center in its tests performed, and some wondered what the future holds...stop the presses! 2008 has seen a severe upward spike in testing, with 13 being performed in January alone. What does it all mean? Keep praying for this ministry—in whatever form and function the Lord would have us do his work.

Friends of Alpha Center can reach out in love for Life to area family in need

(Ixonía) Cancer has affected many lives. Those who have dealt with this scourge have some understanding of the challenges and difficulties it presents. When cancer strikes, Christians know to look to the Lord for help. He alone provides hope and ultimate contentment. Through him we have the comfort of *...the peace of God, which transcends all understanding.* (Phil. 4:7)

The Butzine family knows firsthand that God's Word is an everlasting help in time of trouble. Jonathon and his wife Michelle have two children, 4 year-old Ella and 2 1/2 year-old Anderson. Anderson has cancer. For two years they have battled and little Anderson has been subjected to numerous treatments, including experimental chemo, radiation and surgery. With the strength and love of God giving them courage to face one day at a time, the Butzines humbly and prayerfully wait on the Lord.

Today there is need among us—both emotional and financial as experienced by the Butzine family. Along with the ongoing special medical care the Butzines have been faced with mounting expenses outside insurance coverage. The Butzine family has not asked for help, yet as Christians we follow the example of Jesus who reached out to those in need and helped generously. A God-pleasing response is noted in 2 Corinthians 9:11: *You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*

If you would like to help the Butzines, St. Paul Ixonía is selling daffodils through April 6. Any financial support would also be appreciated and could be sent to: St. Paul's Ev. Luth. Church W1955 Gopher Hill Rd. Ixonía, WI 53036. The family thanks you for your prayers and encourages you to follow Anderson's progress on the website <www.caringbridge.org> Where it says "Visit a CaringBridge", type in andersonbutzine



Re: Alpha volunteers Pastor Ron and Kay Uhlhorn & their Cameroon "experience"

Dear Family and Friends,

March 6, 2008

Many of you have heard about our being in Cameroon an extra week due to riots and unrest in the country. We never felt threatened but we did have to stay on the compound for one week as it was not safe for us to walk or drive around. Damage was done but we never felt anyone was after us. Some buildings were damaged and people hurt and a few lives were lost among the Cameroonians fighting over a raise in gas prices and other issues.



Sunday morning Missionary Myers and family took us to Douala where we stayed in a hotel near the airport until Tuesday. About 6:30 pm we were taken to the airport to head home. We flew to Zurich, Switzerland, on to Chicago and a bus ride to Milwaukee Mitchell Field. Daughter Debbie picked us up and we arrived in Watertown about 8 pm Wed night. Our bed felt so good and we were very thankful to be back home. As I write this it seems that things are still calm in Cameroon but there are issues and it could fire up again.

We are very thankful for the many prayers. Those prayers have been answered for us. Continue to keep Missionary Dan Myers and Peggy and Kara in your prayers as they stay and work on a permanent basis.

Thoughtfully, Kay and Ron

Alpha Life Resource Center

Operated by Tri-County Chapter, CLR

313 E Main St.

Watertown, WI 53094

Nonprofit
Bulk Mail
Permit # 24
Watertown, WI
53094

Return Service Requested

Mark your calendars for an October 18 banquet!

Mark your calendars for another world-renown annual Ice Cream Social luncheon that provides a super opportunity to fellowship and support our ministry. Join us in St. Mark's Watertown Parish Center from 10-1 PM for lunch, and more importantly, dessert!

Ice Cream Social • Sunday, July 13 • 10-1 PM

Look for your church to participate in our annual sale of roses in memory or honor of special women in your life. Roses can be pre ordered and will be displayed in church for Mothers Day weekend. You pick up flowers after church for presentation or ask that they be donated to nursing homes.

Mothers Day Rose Sale • churches on May 11

Christian Life Resources is sponsoring this free workshop from 9 AM-4:30 PM at St. Mark Watertown to train, encourage, network, and practice. Center volunteers and those who want to learn more about this life-affirming work are encouraged to attend! See inside for registration form; RSVP requested.

Volunteer Training • Saturday April 26

