



# Breath of Life

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## STAND FIRM!

*A message from Pastor Ron Uhlhorn • Board of Directors, Alpha Life Resource Center*

**Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:58)**

What do you think about change? Do you like change or don't you? I am sure you would answer by saying, "What kind of change are you talking about?" We live in an age where there is change in technology; in political ideas, in our economy; possible change in our health care system and even changes in many churches. "Some change is good and some is not," and that's about all we can say.

Now read again the words of St. Paul: "Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you." What is the Apostle talking about? Corinthians I 15 is often called the great resurrection chapter. In it we hear the words "But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?" (v. 12) And verse 20: "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."

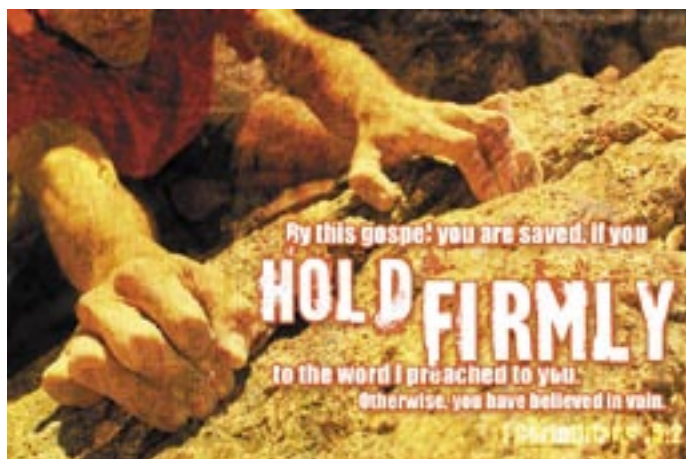
Those are the Gospel truths Paul is talking about. Faith in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead makes us

strong in our Christian convictions. We believe and confess that Jesus is the God-sent Savior, who lived and died to save us, rose, lives again and we will see him with our eyes on the Last Day. Faith that trusts in the Risen and Living Jesus also believes that God's Word is truth. Jesus said, "I will lay down my life and take it again." He did that for us. His Word is truth! Yes, by God's grace we stand firm and with His power let nothing move us.

We believe, as did those who organized and began the Alpha Center, that life is a gift of God. As Acts 17:25 says, He himself (God) gives all men life and breath. We believe the unborn child is a person with a soul, for Psalm 139:13 tells us, For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. Is the Bible still true? Standing firm by the grace of God we answer, Yes!

But Christianity is more than defending the truth and confessing it in words. Soundness in doctrine and firmness in faith also produces fruits of faith. It means that we as believers will want to share the truth of Jesus Christ. It is important as Christians to proclaim the Gospel and seek with God's Word to win lost souls for Christ.

*see Stand Firm, 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 Uhlhorn, for reminding us that God calls us to hold firm to His Word and to share it diligently. The Center is ALWAYS anxious to hear from those who feel this calling in their hearts. We have a number of ways for someone to serve and share the Gospel. Thank you for prayerfully considering the opportunity to volunteer with us. Call or email anytime to ask questions or get information.

We wish to especially thank the Jefferson Co. Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for continuing to be a strong supporter of the Alpha Center ministry. In addition to supplementing both the Ice Cream Social in July and the upcoming banquet in October, there was a special event held back in February, of which the Alpha Center was a designated recipient of funds raised, to the tune of \$1,600.00. The event was a Christian music concert, headlined by Mark Schultz and Point of Grace. Mark and company will be performing again on Saturday, November 14, at Jefferson High School; tickets are \$27. If you're interested, please go to [itickets.com](http://itickets.com) or call the Lane Albrecht Thrivent office at 262-567-2940.

Don't forget the "Back to Basics" 2009 Conference conducted by Christian Life Resources on Saturday, November 7. Don't miss this opportunity to learn and grow as we present a day of informative workshops and plenary session as they guide us to better understand life and family issues from a God-pleasing perspective.

WHEN: Saturday, November 7

WHERE: St. Paul Luth. Church, Slinger, WI

Join CLR for a day of inspiration. Registration is only \$15 per person, lunch included. See the back page of this newsletter for contact information!

## Alpha Center Wish List

• **Attention wood crafters! The Center would like a new "open" sign! There is an example of great homemade painted sign hanging in the window of Tribeca bookstore (SE corner of Main and 4th St in Watertown). Who is willing to make one for us "something like" theirs?**



- gently used cribs, bassinets, playards
- disposable wipes
- new sippy cups
- People's Bible: Psalms, Isaiah

### *Stand Firm, from p. 1*

That's really what the Alpha Center is all about. It is correct to say, "Abortion on demand" is contrary to God's Word and sinful. It is true that living together without the benefit of marriage dishonors God's institution of marriage. It is absolutely right to confess, "God gave us body and soul; God made us and through the work of Jesus Christ we are children of God now and forever." But we do more than say it—while counselors witness these truths often to our clients—we also show it. We turn no one away, are willing to listen and to share with them. Many times we share material goods to help those whose lives seem hopelessly mixed up. We seek to model the love of Christ who gave His very life for us.

We do so because we believe that God loved us and sent His only Son to earn for us forgiveness and life eternal. And we do so with God's promise written in the verse above – Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Sometimes our work does seem hopeless. We hear about proposed laws that would overturn all the laws regulating abortion in our country. We meet people at our Center (some, not all) who live as the world lives and do not want to hear our Christian counsel; they simply want a hand-out.

And we begin to wonder: is it worth it? But it's not what you or I feel—it's God's Word that motivates us and gives us zeal to continue. The Word which encourages us: stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Christian friends of the Alpha Life Resource Center – stand firm! May God and His Word convince us all anew that the purpose this Center is based on the sure, unchanging Word of God. May it lead us to live that faith in prayers, support, volunteer work, volunteer counseling, helping and sharing the Good News of Jesus. It is truly worthwhile.

### *Breath of Life*

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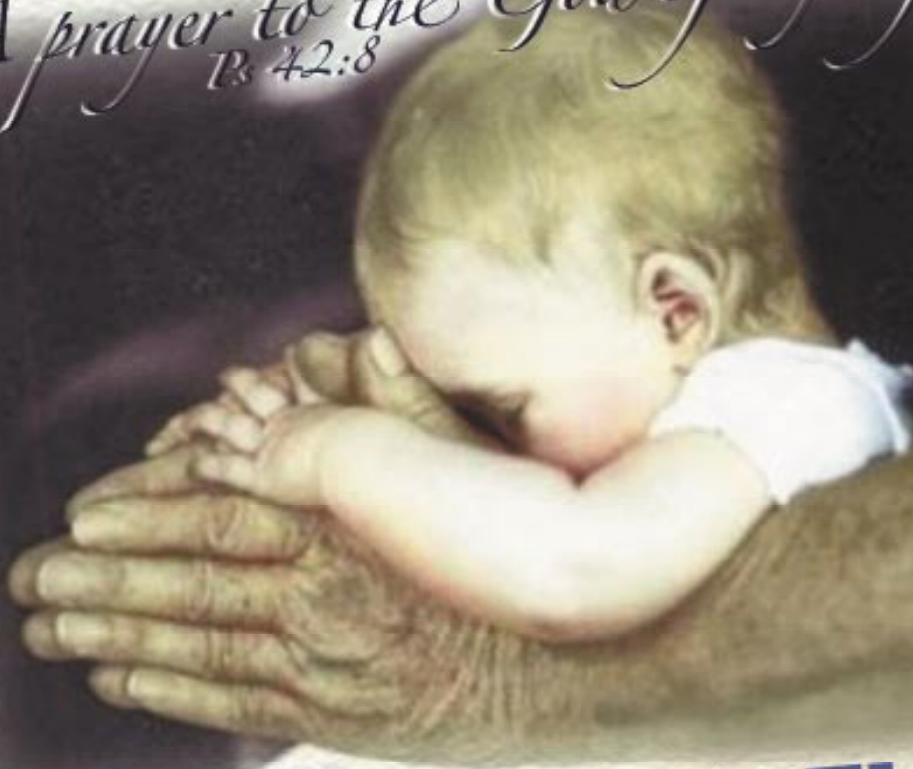
*Layout: Kimara E. Winters; Distribution: Lois Kirkpatrick*



SUPPORT THE

# ALPHA LIFE RESOURCE CENTER

*A prayer to the God of my life*  
Ps 42:8



## BANQUET & AUCTION

*Celebrating Life!*

OCTOBER 17, 2009 • LUTHER PREP GYM

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

that helps enable our Gospel-driven ministry to 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. Our celebration starts at 4:30 with drinks and hors d'oeuvres while you shop the auction, enjoy live music, and finishes with an excellent catered meal and dessert. Start your holiday shopping and be a friend of Alpha!

*\$30 each*  
*\$55 couple*  
*\$200 table of 8*

GET TICKETS AT THE CENTER (313 E. MAIN WATERTOWN)  
BY CALLING 920.261.9207 OR  
EMAILING OFFICE@ALPHALIFECENTER.ORG

**A**mber ale (courtesy of the Delafield Brewhaus), wine, punch and hors d'oeuvres await you as you begin your shopping 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 trip to the Rockies, our assortment has something for you! Thanks for supporting the Alpha Center ministry through this fun and memorable evening~

*Here's a sampling of the wide variety of items worth from \$50 to over \$1,500. What would your bid be? Join us in the fun!*

**Christmas Mountain Resort:** 7 nights (11-21 thru 11-28-09) includes 2 bedroom, 1 bath, fireplace, A/C, tv, dishwasher stove, micro, refrigerator, toaster coffee maker phone, deck w/ grill & chairs. Sleeps 6. Activities include tubing, skiing, restaurant/ lounge, bingo, game room, swimming, horseshoes, arcade and more.

**Rocky Mountain Getaway** package: 5 nights stay for six in mountain cabin with 2 baths (May-Sept) located 1 hr. west of Denver. It's a view you will never forget!

Four 1-day passes to Walt Disney World Florida theme park

Jewelry Armoire from Keck's Furniture

120 minute massage with Leah Noel

Brown's Shoes \$50 gift cards

Claude Monet custom framed print

2 synthetic down pillows from Verlo

Green Bay Packer autographed football

HAWC 3-month membership

Framed artwork from Gallery on the Main in Fort Atkinson

Eberts Greenhouse gift certificates

david j Photography certificate

Swarovski pink crystal necklace from Mimi's Hallmark

Holiday Inn Express of Watertown: free night in a standard room

Aroma Therapy Spa Package from Barb Lemke/Young Living

Diamond jewelry, Generation Jewelers

Watertown Bowl 18 bowling party for 10

Family season passes to Lakeside Lutheran home athletic events

Z-Farms \$50 Christmas tree certificate

"Boost" in-office teeth whitening treatment from Oakridge Dental

5x8 ft area rug from Y's Way Flooring

Warm-up and game package from the Milwaukee Bucks

Dave's Turf & Marine lawn equipment

Additional items and certificates from generous business donors including 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, and more!

## What do you say to a Pagan?

Kimara Winters, Center Director

The Center is blessed to receive visits from hundreds of people each year. These visitors have some need, whether it be a pregnancy test, children's clothes or diapers, or simply an open ear and access to other area resource connections. Volunteers at Alpha thoroughly enjoy seeing the smile on a mother's face when she receives a pack of diapers, as she breathes a sigh of relief that, for a few days anyway, she won't have to worry about scrounging for that necessity.

Of course, what we enjoy even more is the opportunity to talk to our visitors about Jesus. Sometimes this is as easy as sharing faith stories with another believer. Sometimes it's a visible miracle, as we see a face smile in new understanding of the Good News. And sometimes it's not



easy at all. Sometimes we meet people who seem to have hardened their hearts to God and are hostile to spiritual talk; sometimes we meet people who have strong spiritual beliefs, but those beliefs are far away from the truth that Jesus is the way to heaven. Those

visits can easily leave an aftertaste of futility, and the fear of getting visitors like this is a common reason for hesitancy I hear from potential volunteers: "I wouldn't know what to say to those people!"

So what do we say to "those people"? That's when we lean on the reassurance that it's not about us anyway. The Spirit does the knocking, the Spirit opens hearts' doors as well. As Pastor Phil Merten shared in an evangelism workshop, we are simply asked to make some introductions.

Over the past month or so, the Center has had the privilege of making said introductions to at least two visitors who profess to be active Paganists. That surprises some in Watertown, but it probably shouldn't. With Paganism's recent revival in books and TV, the "green" movement being in such concert with the Earth-loving emphasis in most Paganist practices, and the equally popular movement toward moral relativism (can't we all just "co-exist" like the bumper stickers plead?), we shouldn't be surprised that those "itching ears" Paul describes to Timothy have found a renewed source of misguided purpose.

The mysterious trick to finding what to say ends up being no mystery at all. Here's how it might work: The visitor states on the Center intake card that she is a "Pagan" and needs diapers, just like any other mother. As the counselor meets with her, among other questions, she asks, "What do Paganists believe?" and then proceeds to listen and ask more gentle, sincere questions based on what the visitor shares. The Spirit never fails a counselor who has asked for His help. Mental notes are made of the stark differences between Pagan beliefs and what we know to be true. For instance, one shared the sadness that a child of hers had died of SIDS; when asked where her child was now, she replied that he was in the "pool of souls," awaiting reincarnation. When asked whether there was comfort in that for her, she admitted that no, there was none at all. That was the segue into the counselor's witness about what is true about Jesus and the afterlife, and how Christians have a peace beyond understanding as a result.

Was that the end? We hope not. It was an introduction. Did she change her mind about stars and pantheism? Not likely that day. She got some diapers and an invitation to return; another took an offered Bible. That's all, but a seed is all the Spirit uses. Please pray with us about these and all visitors to Alpha, and pray that the Lord provides us with more souls willing to share what they know to be true.

## Board Profile: Pastor Reuben Schmitz

Meet Pastor Reuben Schmitz, who served on our Board from 1999–2004 and was elected again in 2007. He was chairman in previous terms. Many readers will remember the many devotions he has written for *Breath of Life*. His wife, Nancy, serves as Director of Donated Articles; she faithfully organizes the many donations we receive.

Pastor Schmitz grew up in the Ixonia area. In 1984 he graduated from our Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and served 2 congregations – one at rural Medford and the other at rural Rib Lake. Later he taught for one year at Northland Lutheran High School in Mosinee, WI. Pastor Schmitz has worked full-time for Bethesda Lutheran Homes the past 17 years. He is also the called Assistant Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Farmington in addition.

Pastor and Nancy have 4 grown children, two sons and their daughter at home and one son married. We certainly thank this busy man and his wife for their dedication to the ministry of the Alpha Life Resource Center. Thank you and may God continue to bless your service among us!





**Banquet & Auction • Saturday, October 17 • 4:30p**

See inside pages 3-4 for news, items for sale and ticket purchasing information on this annual evening of celebration. Join us in "A Prayer to the Lord of my Life" (Ps. 42:8) as we socialize with other supporters of the ministry, enjoy a classy meal and shop the silent auction to raise funds for the continued operation of the Center. Located in the Luther Prep gymnasium area this year, you can join the crowd yourself, make it a date, or gather with a table of eight for an especially memorable night!

**"Back to Basics" Conference • Saturday, Nov. 7**

"Back to Basics" is the theme for this event hosted by Christian Life Resources at St. Paul in Slinger. Join CLR for a day of inspiration. A special teen tract is also planned. Register online (only \$15 per person, lunch included!) at [www.clrevents.com](http://www.clrevents.com) or call 800-729-9535.