

# RIVERSIDE WATERLINE

## RIVERSIDE COVENANT CHURCH

### Thoughts from Pastor Dan

In the Evangelical Covenant Church, the denomination to which Riverside belongs, pastors are not ordained until the second year of their first pastoral position. Last month I completed my final ordination interview in Chicago and was formally recommended for ordination in June in Portland, Oregon. Part of the process was the preparation of a theological and practical paper answering several pages of questions given to me by the denomination. Since I am often asked what an Evangelical Covenant Church believes, I figured I would give you the reflections that were a part of my ordination paper regarding the six Evangelical Covenant Church affirmations.



The six Covenant Affirmations are: 1) the centrality of the Word

of God, 2) the necessity of the new birth, 3) a commitment to the whole mission of the church, 4) the church as a fellowship of believers, 5) a conscious dependence on the Holy Spirit, 6) the reality of freedom in Christ.

The Word of God is the cornerstone upon which the Church must be built. Christian leaders should ask themselves how the activities of their church embody the Word of God and reflect it to the world. Biblical interpretation must not simply be the task of the pastor, though. The entire church community should read and study the scriptures together so as to better understand and communally reflect God's intended meaning. When the Word of God is made central in a church its power will lead to transformation and new birth. When nonbelievers surrender their lives to Jesus Christ, they are transformed into new

creations. They are born anew in love, forgiveness and grace. The Christian experience is not merely about personal conversion though, but also about making one's faith active in the world. Christians function as God's representatives in the world and must seek to exemplify the character of God to those they encounter. The Church should be a demonstration of the infinite potential of God's love to transform a broken world. A church is not a building or a pastor, but a diverse group of people united together and set apart from the world by their commitment to and relationship with Jesus Christ. The local church embodies this understanding when congregants unite to spread the Gospel to those in their community yet to hear God's redemptive plan. The Holy Spirit is incessantly active in this movement of the Church. Church **continued on p5**

### Sermons for March:

- **March 1 — The Old Way (First Sunday of Lent)**
- **March 8 — The New Way**
- **March 15 — One Final Sacrifice**
- **March 22 — For All**

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“Dear Friends at Riverside Covenant, We are so blessed by your support and love shown toward us as we minister to the village of Elim, Alaska. The kingdom of God goes forward as we are all faithful. Thank you for the part you are playing. God bless your richly.”  
Pastor Terry & Teresa Allen



## Missions Ministry

Operation Elim is off to a great start. The first part of the goal of providing each family in Elim with a care package for Easter was a success with more people signing up than we had families.

Operation Elim is our plan to support the work of Terry and Teresa Allen at the Elim Covenant Church in Elim, AK by providing care packages for each family in the village. In addition to the normal rigors of an Alaskan winter (being dark for 20+ hours and cold), the economic crisis is posing particular challenges for them as well.

### Here are some of the things to include in your care package:

- Soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant and other personal hygiene products
- Socks, t-shirts, underwear

- Candy, Mac & Cheese, rice, beans, cakes mixes, Kool-Aid and Crystal Light mix
- DVDs, CDs, Books, games
- A note (and possibly a picture) from your family telling your selected family about you and let them know you are praying for them.

As was mentioned during the service, basketball is also big deal in Elim and several people have already responded to the challenge of getting a basketball into one of the flat rate boxes. *The Allen's have requested that we do not send Playing Cards and Dice.*

### Packing Instructions:

Please place any liquids in Ziploc bags and securely pack the box. It will take 2 to 3 weeks to reach Elim as the packages travel on several

different trucks and planes. We want to make sure the items get to Elim in one piece.

After packing your box please tape the family care card (you can download one at [www.rcovenant.org/missions/operation-elim-great-start](http://www.rcovenant.org/missions/operation-elim-great-start)) on the top of the box and include a check in the offering plate (made out to Riverside) for the cost of postage (\$10.35 Small Box, \$13.95 Large Box) with a memo indicating 'Operation Elim'. We will be purchasing postage at one time to obtain the best rate.

If you have questions please contact Everette Mills via [elmills@elmills.com](mailto:elmills@elmills.com) or 765-532-2460

The completed family care package must be returned to the church by **Monday, March 23, 2009!**

## Promiseland Chatter

Maybe if we take down the snowflakes and snowmen in Promiseland we can get some warm weather to arrive. Hopefully, by putting up some flowers and sunshine in our rooms, Spring will come soon.

In the month of March our 3-5-year class will learn Jesus was a storyteller. In each lesson the class will experience how Jesus taught His disciples through stories of the Lost Son, the widow who gave everything, and the Good Samaritan.

The K-through -3rd grades are focusing on Growth by using several stories from the life of

Peter, as told in the Gospels and the book of Acts. These lessons emphasize God created all people with distinct qualities, and we will focus on three of them: all people are created to be in a relationship with God and one another; all people are given responsibility; and all people are given the ability to think and make choices.

Learning how to put on the Armor of God will be the goal for 4th and 5th graders. There is a battle between God and Satan. God's mission is to give people of this world His gift of salvation and to grow Chris-

tians into the people He wants them to be. Satan's mission is to prevent people from receiving His gift so they cannot further God's Kingdom work on this earth. We know Who wins this battle, but it doesn't happen without the Armor of God!

Before we know it, Easter will arrive and Promiseland will participate in the worship service on Palm Sunday. Look for more information regarding this in the near future.

Serving Him together,  
Dar Muehlhausen



“But I am like  
an olive tree  
flourishing  
in the house of  
God;  
I trust in  
God's unfailing  
love  
for ever  
and ever.”

Psalm 52:8  
(NIV)

## Women's Ministry

Women of Riverside, coming soon to your very own church is the annual Women's Spring Luncheon. So mark your calendar's and save the date of **Saturday, April 18, from 12-2:00 p.m.** We want you to

join us for lunch and bring all your women friends. Come for an afternoon of great food, fellowship, entertainment and spiritual growth. Watch for more information in the church bulletin!



“For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.”  
Isaiah 61:11



## Youth Ministry

February started with a Fantastic Serving Dish Swaray since we weren't supposed to have a Super Bowl Party-I was trying to be funny but I think I'm the only one that chuckled. ☺ So in the grand tradition of Super Bowl Sunday we all gathered around the flat screen, brought appetizers, chips, pop, hot dogs, and I actually bought a crock-pot and made mac n' cheese, and we watched an awesome football game. They played tackle football downstairs during half-time which was probably really unsafe with the possibility of a rug-burn!! Really the meat of our weekend was Sunday morning which was really exciting. I lugged 6 girls to Discovery Hour that spent the night at my house, and we had kids waiting for us when we arrived so we were packed!! We looked at sin as an addiction and they were very open to sharing what sin has done in their lives and willing to see how its negative effects just aren't worth it!! I was open to sharing mine as well- really trying to be transparent. We ended with writing down the hard ones to give up, prayed over them and I continue to pray for those areas of difficulty. I am

blessed that the students let me in and are willing to look into their lives, and hopefully let God work at their sin areas. Praise God!!

We also started a new curriculum on Sunday evenings-Gospel Journey Maui!! It takes 7 young people from all different religious backgrounds and sticks them on an island with a Christian, Greg Stier (founder of dare 2 share ministries) as their dialogue leader. Its reality, it's all about Jesus! He asks some big, hard questions and uses God's Word to inform and inspire. It is also a good tool to teach about other beliefs, and from there teach effective ways to minister to friends about Jesus from those backgrounds. We have our favorites and those we think should be kicked off the island so to speak-but one thing is for sure-the students are talking about their relationship with Jesus while sipping tropical smoothies. We're getting into the deep stuff like— why are we here? What is our purpose? It's awesome to have engaging conversations each week that leave your head spinning and heart bursting for more of

Jesus!!

As Valentine's Day approached I figured we better do something fun because I know I have never enjoyed that particular hallmark holiday and wanted to start a new tradition! We got up not-so-early since none of us enjoy that, had brunch at my house that was devoured in 2.2 seconds, did some bowling, and ended the afternoon handing out flowers to people living at the Veteran's home! I'm not going to lie, it was a little scary knocking on doors of strangers, but the students really made the veteran's day!!

I also had the opportunity to enjoy a very close basketball game starring our very own Lexi Madrid and a not so close game where Shelby seriously stomped on the other team!! Our newest youth grouper- Aspen-and I got to know each other better while making cookies for the firemen that put out a fire on her street a few weeks ago- it was awesome eating cookie dough, sharing some pretty cool stuff about our lives and drinking 42 oz. big gulps. Did I mention that I need to use that gym membership a little more?? All in all the last

## Youth Ministry cont. from p4

month has been pretty amazing-I'm so excited to see them every week and dive into what Jesus has in store!!

So what's coming up in the youth world?? Well, we're getting ready to have some heart to heart talks with each age group and gender about why God's plan and commands about sex and dating are always the way to go. It's amazing how our culture gets a hold of us

and we lose track of His perfect plan for relationships! I fell into the world's rhythm very easily in high school so I'm hoping that my testimony and God's awesome Word will pierce their hearts and show them how to hope for and pursue purity.

The boys will head to Indy for some "man time" at a hockey game and then we'll be full swing into 30-Hour Famine mode! I am so

excited to see what God has in store to teach all of us as we fast together March 13-14. Once more God has proven His authority and graciousness over the students-they've been in the Word more this month than the past several months as they were challenged to do 30 devotions before the 30-Hour Famine. Now I'm really praying to see fruit from the Word working in their lives!!!!

## Thoughts from Pastor Dan cont. from p 1

must be attentive to the Holy Spirit's leading and rely upon the Holy Spirit for guidance and strength. It is the Holy Spirit that gives life and vitality to the work of the Church and it is the Holy Spirit that transforms

people from disobedience to faithful service. By choosing to be wholly committed to God, the Church embraces its freedom in Christ. Seemingly incompatible congregants are free to reside in authentic

Christian community with one another despite differences because they are reconciled and united around a common understanding of Jesus Christ as God's instrument in human restoration.



"...the godly flourish like leaves in spring."

Proverbs 11:28b  
(NLT)

## Community News

### *LifeCare Spring Support Banquet*

**Tony Perkins, President, Family Research Council in Washington, DC**, will be the featured speaker at LifeCare's Spring Support Banquet. Tony is a frequent commentator on MSN, CNN, Fox News and other

media. He is a leader in defending the family, the unborn and their mothers.

LifeCare Services is a pregnancy care center near the Purdue University campus. The spring banquet will be **Saturday, March 28, 2009**, in the **Purdue Memorial Union**

**Ballrooms** beginning with dinner at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25.00 each, or \$200.00 for a table of 8. Call LifeCare Services at 765-743-4488 for tickets. Your check confirms your reservation. Deadline for reservations is March 18. Please join us!

## RIVERSIDE COVENANT CHURCH

Working together to help people discover Christ and develop a growing relationship with Him.

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# MARCH 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

### March Schedule of Events:

- Sundays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
  - ⊕ Discovery Hour @ 9 a.m.
  - ⊕ Worship @ 10:15 a.m.
  - ⊕ Jr High meets @ 3-4:30 p.m.
  - ⊕ Sr High meets 6:30-8 p.m.
- Sunday, March 22 — Deadline to turn in boxes for Operation Elim
- Mondays, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30— Men's Bible study at Riverside, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 17, 6:30 p.m.— Leadership Team meeting
- Wednesday, March 4, 6:30-8:30 p.m. — Women's Bible study at Riverside
- Wednesday, March 25 — Final day to place order for Easter lilies
- Thursdays, March 5, 12, 19, 26 — Men's Bible Study at Riverside, 6:30 a.m.
- Friday, March 6— Sunday, March 8 — Indiana Covenant Men's Retreat at Camp Tecumseh
- Friday, March 13, 5 p.m.— Saturday, March 14, 6 p.m. — Youth's 30 hour famine at Riverside
- Saturday, March 7 — Spring Ahead for Daylight Savings Time
- Saturday, March 21 — Men's Breakfast at Riverside



### March Birthdays:

1 Sharon Fearnot  
4 Kate Kelley  
4 Abigail Springs  
5 Lindsay Umbeck  
5 Stanley Hickman  
7 Tom Smiley  
8 Linda Bogan  
8 Dale Norris  
10 Colleen Hoffman  
12 Angela Itin  
12 Noelle Itin  
14 Mike Fassnacht  
15 Sara Rottler  
16 Ethan Keen  
19 Steve Purtzer  
20 Tyler Kirgiss  
20 Ryan Wellner  
23 Brian Keazer  
26 Tara Madrid  
27 Beth Purtzer  
27 Polly Timmerman  
31 Paula Johnson