



## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

**Jim Brannon**

Remember back in the good old days when everyone made their own butter with the butter churn? Well.....one day two mice fell into a deep cream bowl. One was an optimistic soul. But the other took the gloomy view.

"We're going to drown," he lamented without much ado, and with a last despairing cry, he flung up his legs and said "Goodbye."

"I can't get out but I won't give in, I'll just swim around till my strength is spent, then I'll die the more content," Quoted the other mouse with a steadfast grin.

Bravely he swam to work his scheme, and his struggles began to churn the cream. The more he swam, his legs a flutter, the more the cream turned into butter.

On top of the butter at last he stopped, and out of the bowl he gaily hopped.

Are the circumstances surrounding your life drowning you, or are you allowing them to help you develop a better relationship with Jesus?

"Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." (Luke 12:32)

"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

(I Corinthians 4:17-18)



## MEN'S MINISTRY

**Cris Alexander**

Troubles and trials are a fact of life... we all go through them. Did you ever, in the midst of a trial, ask God, "Why me?" When we're in the midst of a circumstance, it is difficult for us to see the forest for the trees. Our focus tends to be on a solution, some means of getting out of the mess. And God is faithful... He always brings us through. If you keep a spiritual journal, its pages are no doubt full of accounts of trials and God's deliverance and comfort. But did you ever, after the trial, stop to think about what that trial was all about? Was it simply a means of building character and developing patience, or was it something more? It has been my experience that it's almost always something more.

We'll talk about trials and their purpose in the life of a believer at the next RBC Men's Group breakfast and Bible study on Saturday, May 21. We'll eat a hearty breakfast at 7:30, open the Word at 8:00 and have you on your way before you know it. Come and bring a friend! See you there!



## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

**Julie Zgorzynski**

*Little children, let us not love in word or speech but in action and in truth!" John 3:18*

SECOR is a local food bank and support group that RBC supports. They are asking us this year to help by providing school supplies for this coming August school year for families in need. They are asking for: pens, pencils, spiral notebooks, paper, glue sticks, erasers, rulers, colored pencils and anything else school related. Please drop off these items in the SECOR baskets in the church foyer. Thank you for your support of SECOR.

Ladies: Our next meeting time will be on July 9. Watch your bulletin for more details.

SECOR's food for May is cereal.

We are taking the summer off from CardMakers and will start up this September.

RBC Crafters meet the first Saturday of each month at 9:30. See Kathy Sanders for more details.

Any questions? Please see me or Laura Schafer, Chelsey Peterson or Peggy Livermore.



## YOUTH NOTES

**Radu Pasca**

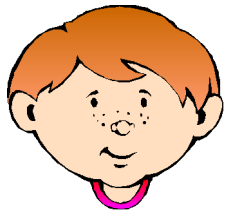
The gospel of Luke recalls a unique story of two men going to the village of Emmaus three days after Jesus was killed and buried. (Luke 24:13-35) Emmaus was about seven miles from Jerusalem. As expected, they were discussing the recent events trying to sort through all that had happened. They had heard and seen Jesus do amazing things and had come to hope that He was going to redeem Israel. (v.21) However, His death on the cross crushed all hopes.

Suddenly a stranger came along asking them about their conversation. Shocked at the fact that this stranger did not know what had happened, they proceeded to tell Him the course of events. One of the men, Cleopas, even mentioned that some of the women who were with them brought amazing news about Jesus being alive. A fact validated by Peter and others. However, that must have seemed too good to be true.

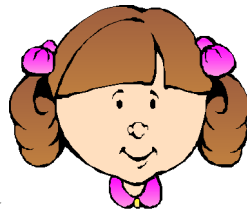
The stranger was Jesus himself; however, they did not recognize Him because their eyes were kept from recognizing Him. (v.16) Since they were "slow of heart to believe" Christ interpreted to them all the scriptures concerning Himself starting with Moses. As they were listening, their hearts were burning in them. (v.32)

These Jewish men grew up hearing about Moses and all the prophets. Hearing someone talk about Moses again, wasn't a novelty. What made their hearts burn inside of them were the words of Christ full of power. I must conclude that when someone's heart is burning in them at the hearing of the message of Christ, that person has heard from God.

On the other hand, some hearts have become insensitive to the words of Jesus. What will it take to set our hearts on fire again?



**KIDSTUFF**  
**Kathy Sanders**



As soon as the last plastic egg has been found and

the last peep consumed - my goodness, its almost time for VBS! But first, let me offer many thanks to all those who helped with our Easter celebration and especially the moms and dads who were so good to hang out with us the entire morning. Before I could finish hauling the leftovers down to the resource room, our auditorium was re-assembled and the vacuums were going full tilt. You all are just the best!

SonSurf Beach Bash is the theme of this year's Vacation Bible School. Our little "vacationers" will experience a week full of fun, crafts, food, games and daily encounters with Jesus. If you've not already circled June 27 thru July 1 in bright red on the family calendar - well, stop reading right now and do it! Please invite neighbors and friends - we love lots of company for Bible School. Just let them know that it's held Mon-Friday, 9 AM - 12 noon during the aforementioned dates.

I could still use some more adult leadership as group guides. No prep necessary, just travel with our little ones from center to center and help where needed. Let me know if you'd like to add your name to our staff roster! A couple of important dates for ALL workers to remember: Mandatory workers meeting Sunday, May 15 at 4:30 PM to get your notebooks and hear all plans and Saturday, June 4 is our traditional all-church workday beginning at 9 AM. We paint, cut, paste - and enjoy some fellowship in the process. Hope to see everyone there!



**INTERCESSORY PRAYER**

**Jeanne Fruh**

“God Most High, I praise You that You always fulfill Your purpose. You are glorified in that You always keep your promises. You never fail to send help from heaven and You are faithful in giving Your love and strength. I want to get in line with Your will and say “Yes” to Your plan for my life.”

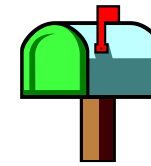
(Quote of prayer taken from “Diamonds in the Dust” by Joni Eareckson Tada.)

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**Redeemer Reflections**

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*May 2011*



Looking in the rear view mirror, we can see a youth Disciple Now weekend, a very productive church workday, a children’s Easter party, exciting Easter worship experience and a tribute to mothers! April has been an eventful and event full month!

Looking through the windshield into May, there are exciting opportunities ahead. The youth will be having their annual “garage sale”, which is their biggest fund raiser for the summer camp and mission projects. They will also be heading up into the mountains for their Spring retreat. The men’s group will have their final breakfast/Bible study before they break for the summer months; and Mothers will have their special day of recognition. There will, doubtless, be some other unscheduled stops along the way during the month.

What a Spring this has been. Out hearts and prayers go out to many of you in Mississippi-Alabama-Georgia who have been through such a terrifying and destructive time of tornados. And now it looks like the entire Mississippi River watershed will have to deal with flooding. Kinda makes our unusually cool Spring in the Rockies seem inconsequential.

After our fight with the woodpeckers, we can now declare victory! But it took a critter expert to tip the scales. He trapped and removed, or killed several birds before others were persuaded to go peck and bore on somebody’s else’s house. We have made a note for next Spring to be ready for their return!

A reminder, if you still receive this newsletter by hard copy through the mail, and would like to get it online via email, send us your email address to “[www.rbc1994@gmail.com](mailto:www.rbc1994@gmail.com)”. It saves us money and time and you receive it much faster!