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# THE CURRENT

RIVER OF LIFE CHURCH | AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA

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## Winter 2009

### MISSIONS SPOTLIGHT: MINISTRY OF JESUS, TOGO, WEST AFRICA

By: Kay Mortimer

In November, Guest Missionary Greg Yarian of Ministry of Jesus (MOJ) visited with us and reported on the work of MOJ in Togo, Africa. God's hand is at work in mighty ways there, and it was great to hear of the awesome things God is doing, such as:

- Planting new churches in various parts of the country
- Training of African leaders in the Word of God and in preaching and teaching to lead the African churches
- New Training program for girls to help them overcome

longstanding detrimental traditions and break free into new ways of life

- Digging of wells to provide practical needs of clean water to drink
- New college center and enhanced student programs

Greg shared how ROLC is primarily responsible for the digging of the wells, which serves a great need to the people of the villages there. Therein, by providing practical needs, the way is opened for them to receive spiritual provision as well.

He shared about several new programs, including a program to train girls to read Scripture, to cook and make crafts, do Bible studies, and make sacks, which they can then sell in the U.S.

Greg was excited about the new college center. Student programs now include studies at the University level. The course "How To Interpret God's Word and Avoid the Cults" trains leaders of tomorrow in their own language and culture.

Church planting and training of native leaders continues, spreading from the northern parts of

the county and now including the central parts. Although they began in towns, now they are working into the villages as well.

ROLC maintains a long-term commitment to MOJ, originally founded by Tom and Joan Beak, who are dear to ROLC. We pray God's work continues at an ever-increasing pace in Togo, West Africa, and praise God for the work of Greg Yarian and MOJ as God's kingdom continues to expand across the globe.

### COME SEE "THE CASE FOR GRACE"

By: Kay Mortimer

We invite you all to come and see our original Christmas drama, "The Case For Grace", to be presented on Saturday, December 12 at 7 pm, and Sunday morning, December 13 at 10:30 am at ROLC.

Experience a fresh look at Christmas and its message. Enjoy a visit with Grandma, as well as witnessing the short plays, "The Gavel Falls" and "A Tale of Two Women." Delight with Deep River Kids as they dance to a beloved Christmas favorite. And be

blessed by the ministry of Living Fire.

See Jesus' birth and its message in a new way. And come to understand a fresh revelation of the importance of Christmas.

#### IN THIS EDITION:

Mission Spotlight.....	1
"The Case for Grace" ...	1
Family and Marriage Coalition .....	2
Join the Class.....	2
What Do I Have to Offer, Part 2.....	3
Reverend Fun .....	3
Church Times .....	3
Junior Bible Quiz .....	4
Dates to Remember .....	4
Tidbits .....	4

# FAMILY AND MARRIAGE COALITION

## God's design for marriage

By: Roger Rollins, FAMCO Director

It certainly shouldn't be a surprise to us that society today is attempting to redefine marriage, and ultimately to do away with marriage as we know it. Marriage in the world today is basically a business contract between two individuals, spelling out the individual rights, and the penalties for failure to keep agreements.

It shouldn't be a surprise because the world has no concept of marriage the way it is designed to work. It's the same reason many people think the Bible is just gibberish mixed up with a lot of myths. They haven't met the author.

If you want to understand what God thinks about marriage, I highly recommend a book by John Piper called "This Momentary Marriage." It's an excellent read and will answer a lot of questions you have about marriage, e.g. what is marriage like

in heaven, how do we deal with divorce, etc.

To quote Piper, "The most foundational thing to see from the Bible about marriage is that it is God's doing. And the ultimate thing to see from the Bible about marriage is that it is for God's glory."

Marriage is God's Doing

1. Marriage was God's design. God created "man" as male and female. He made the male a helper fit for him. In other words, God made them perfectly suited for each other.
2. God gave away the first bride. God made the woman and brought her to the man.
3. God spoke the design of marriage into existence. God said the two shall become one.

4. God performs the one-flesh union. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.

Marriage is for God's Glory. Marriage is the display of God. Marriage is a sacred covenant, not a contract. In Ephesians 5:31-32, we read: "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church." In other words, marriage is patterned after Christ's covenant commitment to His church.

Marriage exists to put the covenant relationship of Christ and His church on display. Staying married, therefore, is not mainly about staying in love. It is about keeping covenant. "Till death do us part."

Christ will never leave his wife. Ever. Marriage is a display of that kind of relationship. It puts the glory of Christ's covenant-keeping love on display.

Of course the world can't understand marriage. Those of us who are Christians can, however. Let's show the world what marriage and God's covenant-keeping love for His people is all about.

Remember what Beth Moore said the unsaved look for most in Christians. It's not our relationship to Jesus; it's our resemblance to Him. By the same token, it's the resemblance of our marriage to the God's relationship with His church that the world needs to see.

## JOIN THE CLASS

By: Kay  
Mortimer

ROLC offers several opportunities for you to enrich your knowledge of God's Word and its application to your life. Be a part of any or all of these and grow in God's grace with others here at ROLC:

**Sunday School classes** – offered every Sunday morning at 9:15 am

Two different adult classes are offered, and many children and youth classes, varying by age and school grade.

All focus on the study of God's Word and carry a particular theme for each quarter.

**Wednesday Night classes** – offered Wednesday evenings beginning at 7 pm.

Currently, Pastor John is teaching a great study on Spiritual Gifts – how to know what they are, how to identify what yours are, and how to plug in to ministry in your gift – Don't miss it!

**Youth Services** – under Pastor Keith's direction – Youth, come on out!

**Children** – Children's church opportunities & Junior Bible Quiz, as well as Deep River Kids

**Ladies Bible Study** – normally meeting every other Monday at 1 pm. Classes to resume in January – Working our way through the book of Romans. See Kay Mortimer for more information.

**Men's Bible Study** – Friday mornings under the direction of Pastor John and Lonnie Chavis.

**Fellowship Groups** – resuming in January with a variety of offerings

As you can see, there is no lack for opportunity to grow in your faith and in your knowledge of God's Word. Come out and be a part of any or all of these! You'll be glad you did.

# WHAT DO I HAVE TO OFFER? PART 2

By: Denise Merchant

Let's recap! What is mentoring? Tim Elmore in his book, "Life Giving Mentors" says, "Mentoring is a relational experience through which one person empowers another by sharing his wisdom and resources." We all possess a level of wisdom and acquire resources gained through our trials, tribulations, and successes.

So the next logical question to ask ourselves is; "Why should I be a mentor?" It would seem that the obvious and yet astute answer is, "why not". What do we have to lose? There is only gain in this endeavor. If we are being made in the image of Christ, then the answer is clear according to the Word of God. As stated in Part 1, Jesus himself mentored 12 that he raised up and sent out to mentor others. But even before Jesus' example in the New Testament

were examples in the Old Testament. Look at how God Himself joined mentors and mentees together. God directed Moses to the desert where he met Jethro in Exodus 18. He joined Naomi and Ruth, Elijah and Elisha. What would Ruth have done without Naomi, or Elisha without Elijah? Would they have been as blessed as they were? Would their story be worthy of canonization? They have a story to tell because someone invested in their lives.

If we, God's people, do not mentor this generation, the world culture certainly is willing to do so. Look around at the amount of information and data that is available to them. There is no shortage of information out there. There is only a shortage of direction in what to do with the information acquired. Left to their own devices, our young are

easy prey for the worldly culture to steer the wrong way.

**Take a moment to ponder and answer these three questions.**

1. At anytime in your life do you feel you have had a mentor and if so, who?
2. Have you ever mentored another person and if so, who?
3. Do you presently have a mentor or are mentoring another and if so, who?

*A very wise man once said, "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens the wit of another." Proverbs 27:17*

## "Everybody Has a Seed to Grow and Sow"

Some people walk  
Some people race  
Some people vary in their pace  
But God can use what you can give  
Within the mystery of His ways  
Don't underestimate...

One thing I know  
Everybody's got a seed to sow  
Let your heart of hearts  
Take you down the road  
Everybody's got a seed to sow

"Seed to Sow"  
Lyrics by Michael W. Smith



MESSAGE 101 DELETED ... NEW MESSAGE ... "HELLO BALAAM, IT'S DONKEY AGAIN, JUST WANTED TO CHAT, MAYBE DISCUSS WHAT A JERK YOU CAN BE..."

## CHURCH SERVICE TIMES

### SUNDAY

Sunday School  
for All Ages 9:15 am

Sunday  
Morning Worship  
10:30 am

Sunday Evening Worship  
6:30 pm

### WEDNESDAY

Adult Class 7:00 pm

Overflow Youth Ministries  
7:00 pm

Ministries for all ages  
7:00 pm

River of Life Church | 1411 Columbia Hwy N. | Aiken, SC 29801  
Phone: (803) 648-4047 | Fax: (803) 648-3457 | [www.aikenriveroflife.org](http://www.aikenriveroflife.org)

# JUNIOR BIBLE QUIZ

The children of River of Life are off to a great start with the Junior Bible Quiz. We are working on the first 11 questions, which cover the basics of Bible knowledge. Junior Bible Quiz (JBQ) was created and designed to help children develop a love for the Bible and an understanding that its truth can guide their lives daily. Junior Bible Quiz offers a fun, exciting way to motivate children to understand the all-important truths in God's Word. Through cooperative learning, children work together on teams to learn and understand the questions and answers from the Bible Fact-Pak.

## Can you answer these questions correctly?

1. What is the Bible?
2. How many books are in the Bible?
3. How many books are in the Old Testament/New Testament?
4. In what language was each of the Testaments written?
5. What does Testament mean?

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### DECEMBER

December 6	New Members Welcome Lunch
December 6	Annual Church Business Meeting at 6:30 pm
December 12, 13	Christmas Drama "The Case For Grace"
December 13	Communion (PM service)
December 16	Kids minister at Croft House
December 24	Christmas Eve Service - 5 pm
December 28, 29	"Inside Out" Youth conference

### JANUARY

January 3	Guest Missionary Mark Bruner
January 4-6	Prayer and Fasting with Communion (Wed.)
January 10	Concert/Speaker Geof Kimber
January 17	Fellowship Groups begin
January 31	Special Arts Ministry Night

### FEBRUARY

February 17	Ministry at Christ Centra
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*All church-sponsored events must be recorded with Linda Solomon in the business office with an Event Form prior to being placed on the calendar.*

# TIDBITS

## CALLING ALL THESPIANS, STAGE HANDS, ETC.

Thespians, Stage Hands, Set Designers, etc: Come join the ROLC Drama Team. Anyone interested in being a part of our dramas in any way should contact Kay Mortimer (803) 215-6327 to get signed up.

Our kickoff drama meeting for our Easter production will be in January. We're excited about offering a minimum of two productions annually, and would love to have YOUR participation!

Whether you feel comfortable with acting, costuming, makeup, lighting, videography, props and sets, or just "helping" any way you can, you are welcome! Contact Kay for more information and be a part of this exciting ministry!

## TURKEY FEAST DAY

On Sunday, November 15, 2009, ROLC's Hospitality Committee hosted a feast after the morning service. Guests were served a banquet of turkey with all the fixins. A wide array of desserts topped off the meal.

Of the nearly 200 people at the Sunday morning service, about 160 stayed for the meal. Everyone enjoyed the great time of food and fellowship. Kudos to the Hospitality Committee and all volunteers who helped!

## WRITERS, ARISE

Do you feel called to write? Are you gifted with written communication skills? If so, please contact Kay Mortimer about helping with the ROLC quarterly newsletter. As Editor of The Current, I welcome any assistance from those called to write.

Contact Kay to find out how you may submit brief articles or help report on ROLC happenings to keep our newsletter updated and vibrant. Call Kay at (803) 215-6327 to use your talent in this ministry!

## ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Come out for River of Life's Annual Church Business Meeting on Sunday, Dec. 6 at 6:30 pm. The meeting usually only lasts about an hour or so.

Here we present the church budget for next year and church members vote on various candidates for leadership and ministry positions. Other items of interest may also be discussed.

The meeting is open to anyone, but only church members can vote on ballot items. We invite you to come on out and learn more about the church and plans for 2010.