

the

APRIL 2009 EDITION

FOCAL Point

CENTERED ON ACTIVITIES OF TOLEDO FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH FAMILY

✧ Let's "Shout the Gospel" with our lives ✧

Two new opportunities will be ready soon

"As a rock climber, the one thing you learn is that those who panic, die on the mountain. You don't just sit on the mountain. You either go up or go down, but don't just sit and wait to get clobbered." — Jim Collins in a January 22, 2009 interview by Jennifer Reingold, senior writer for FORTUNE magazine.

Jim Collins [author of *Built to Last* and *Good to Great*] has made a career out of understanding why organizations [like some rock climbers] succeed. He says the signature of mediocre organizations is not an unwillingness to change, but chronic inconsistency at doing so because the changes they make are inconsistent with their values [whatever they are].



So IF our values include: "Growing from the children's divisions up" [instead of appealing primarily to adults convinced by systematic theology] "A Christ centered church" [think Christian Adventist instead of Adventist Christian; pick up a copy of our Assimilation Manual at church or download it from our church website for more info] "Shouting the Gospel with our lives" [such as promoting a lifestyle of evangelism through ordinary outreach opportunities], as contrarian as it sounds in a tanking economy, shouldn't we be doing even more of the few things we value most?

At Toledo First, we think so. That's why you'll be hearing about two new ordinary outreach opportunities taking place soon. The first beginning before Easter, during

[Continued on next page, bottom]



*Hail the day that sees
Christ rise,
To the throne in Paradise;
Christ the Lamb
for sinners given,
Enters now the highest
heaven.*



Kindness, if you show it to others, will radiate from you like the warmth of the sun over the hilltops.

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What happened at Toledo First in March?

Pastor Rachel Davies and Kid Connect volunteers were very busy during March. On March 14 they launched a new curriculum for Kid Connect called Big City Studio. The 1st photo at left shows the launch of that new program. Bunny ears were just the thing in

Cradle Roll! Photo #3 shows Pastor Rachel and Kid Connect children as they wrap up their KC program for the adults in the sanctuary March 21. This 13th Sabbath-type program showed the adults in the sanctuary what the children are learning week by week

in Kid Connect which takes place during both 11 AM & 5 PM worship. We welcomed Dr. Raj Attiken, Ohio Conference President, [photo 4] who spoke to us on March 28. Photo #5 is our foyer without the tile. The tile was removed March 23-26. Something

new will replace it soon! As always, we thank Jeff Batchelder for taking the pictures which we share here. ##

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APR 7
Town Hall
Mtg. 7 PM

APR 18
Baptisms @ 11
o'clock worship

APR 25
Communion @
11 o'clock

APR 27
Business Mtg,
7 PM

Remember: You can see this newsletter in beautiful color by visiting toledofirstadventist.org

Shout the Gospel

[Continued from front page]
Spring Break in cooperation with our non-profit organization called Haven of Hope and the Aurora House, will involve "making over" a couple of bedrooms inside the Aurora House. The second, God willing, involves our 2nd Service, Connections, leaving the building and establishing a new storefront and mission outpost location

for ministry in Toledo South.

God has already moved in miraculous ways providing relationships with key leaders within the city and funding outside our church budget. I hope you can all be present to hear more about both of these ordinary outreach opportunities at our Business Meeting on April 27, 2009 @ noon or 7 PM where we will be talking about these initiatives in detail. Thank

you for helping us now, more than ever, shout the Gospel with our lives!!! — Pastor Mike ##

Order Signs

Signs of the Times magazine has been reaching people since 1874. *Signs* can reach your friends and loved ones, too. Sponsor a subscription to someone you know for \$14.49 [12 issues]. Call 800.545.2449 or order online at

AdventistBookCenter.com ##

Register for Mohaven now

Camp Mohaven Summer Camp schedule begins June 28 and continues through most of July. Cost is \$175 for regular camp. Ski Camp is available for 12-17 year-olds for \$200. You may register or get more information at summeratmohaven.org or call 740.397.4665 x 122. ##

Will you help with a home makeover?



Haven of Hope mission is "Building Families, Providing Hope, Empowering Community."

Haven of Hope is currently looking for volunteers who are interested in helping remodel or give home

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING THE COMMUNITY?

Have you heard of Haven of Hope? Guess what?! It's the new Toledo First SDA Church non-profit! We seek to help low-income families fix up and/or make over their homes. HoH mis-

makeovers to those who do not have the resources to do it on their own. HoH is looking for painters, woodworkers, landscapers; people willing to clean or organize items, etc. Donations are also welcome such as NICE dressers, desks, bedroom accessories, lamps, etc. We are currently working on making over two bed rooms in the Aurora House (women's rehab shelter). There are three 10 foot tall windows that need curtains or blinds. We are in need of someone who can sew to make 10 foot long curtains.

Please, if you can help in any way or are interested in our future projects call Nicole Szczechowski, Director, at 740-507-0431 or e-mail igotjoy777@gmail.com.

Please also stop in the church office and pick up a volunteer survey to fill out. —Nicole Szczechowski ##

Dates to Remember

Town Hall Meeting is Tuesday, April 7, 7 PM. Ohio Conference leaders will be our guests for an informative 90 minutes when they bring us up-to-date with what's happening in Ohio churches.... **Christian**

Record Services for the Blind offering appeal is April 11. CRS provides Bibles and other reading material for the blind....

YMCA Family Gym Day is April 19, 3:00-5:45 at West Y on Tremainsville...

Church Business

Meeting is Monday, April 27, 7 PM. Come and make a difference! Give your input and help make decisions for your church.

Nicole offers relaxation

"Its Time To Relax!" Have you had Massage Therapy lately? Do you need stress relief? Or perhaps you have sore or achy muscles? I would love to help! I have been a Licensed Massage Therapist now for over a year and would love to help you feel better. I offer Swedish Relaxation, Deep Tissue and Reflexology massage sessions. My office is at the Summit YMCA downtown. Please call or e-mail me for an

appointment: Nicole Szczechowski LMT
igotjoy777@gmail.com
740-507-0431. ##

Hone reading skills

The University of Toledo is offering Reading Skills and Speed Reading Programs for Children [starting with 4 year olds] and Adults beginning in June. All programs meet once each week. Some classes are on Sundays, Thursdays or Fridays. All meet on Scott Park Campus. For more information or to register, call 800.978.9596 Mon - Thurs 8AM - 10 PM; Friday 8 AM - 9 PM. Classes are offered as a community service and are taught by professional

instructors from the Institute of Reading Development. ##

Lunch & Eat n Greet Schedule

April 4 - Potluck
April 11 - Eat n Greet
April 18 - Friendship
April 25 - Eat n Greet ##

TJA Parent Meeting

This is just a reminder for TJA parents that there will be a meeting on Thursday, April 16, from 7 - 8 PM to discuss fundraising and plans for next year. ##

Massage Therapy
"Its time to relax"
Nicole Szczechowski LMT

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**Buy Gift Cards.
Use the same as cash.
Benefit our students & school.**

April is T.R.I.P. Month!

This April you can help Toledo Junior Academy. You don't have to buy anything you wouldn't ordinarily purchase. Just by getting your groceries, putting gas in your car, getting a bite to eat or shopping for needed items, you can help our school.

Instead of starting a new fund raising program I am highlighting a fundraiser that we are already doing. I am challenging each student in the month of April to see how many T.R.I.P. orders they can get. There will be a weekly prize and a monthly prize, (excluding the week of Spring Break, April 6-13). Orders will be placed April 14 when we return from Spring Break.

T.R.I.P. (Tuition Reduction Incentive Program) works this way: Toledo Junior Academy has an extensive list of participating retailers who offer gift cards at face value for things you already buy like gas, groceries, clothes, shoes etc. These retailers then give percentages of that money to TJA. The school in turn splits this percentage between students tuition and to help with TJA's budget.

By participating in this program **YOU** have the *potential* of helping many of our TJA students reduce their tuition and helping the school stretch our budget a little bit further. All possible because you're leveraging the money you are already spending!

And, you can now order from home, work, wherever your computer is. Online registering and ordering is simple! You don't have to worry about picking up an order form, you always have it available. You will however, need to get a registration number from me to link you to our school's site. But, don't be alarmed if you aren't computer savvy, you can still order the way you always have by filling out an order form and dropping it in the box (with your check of course, made out to TJA Scrip). We have two box locations, one outside the school office in the hallway, and one across from the mailboxes at church in the foyer. Order forms are conveniently available by these boxes as well.

Whether ordering online or by order form, **orders and payment** MUST be received each Monday by 9:00 AM. Your order will then be available for pick-up with Kells Hall on the Thursday that follows. Isn't that great? You get your order the same week!!

If you are interested in online ordering, please see me for a how-to guide for ordering online. I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Let's make April the best month yet for T.R.I.P. I want to thank you in advance for taking part in helping make it just a little bit easier for students to attend TJA and for helping TJA educate students for life and eternity! —Kendra Bills ##

Come and join other churches on Good Friday



Come celebrate Good Friday with us on the 10th starting at 10:30 AM. Toledo First is teaming up with four other churches for an interdenominational Easter procession in the south end, where we will soon be involved in some significant outreach projects. We will meet at the Immaculate Conception Catholic church, 434 Western Avenue, Toledo, for a prayer walk around the block. Then we will finish at Immaculate Conception with prayer stations and readings from pastors of all the different churches represented. Come prepare yourselves for the joy of Easter by meditating on the pain of crucifixion Friday. —Pastor Rachel Davies ##

A burst of glory!

Almost a century ago, Dr. R.W. Dale, a preacher in Birmingham, England, was in his study writing an Easter sermon. As he pondered the Easter event, suddenly the fact of the Resurrection broke in upon him as never before. Later, he wrote of what he felt: 'Christ is alive,' I said to myself: 'Alive!' and then I paused: - 'Alive!' and then I paused again: 'Alive!' Can that really be true? Living as I myself am? I got up and walked about, repeating, 'Christ is living! Christ is living!' At first it seemed strange and hardly true, but at last it came upon me as a burst of sudden glory. —James S. Stewart, in *The Life and Teaching of Jesus Christ*

