

Stonehouse Chronicles

“YOU ALSO, AS LIVING STONES, ARE BEING BUILT UP AS A SPIRITUAL HOUSE...”

Life & Happenings at Rose Creek Village — Volume 1, Issue 1 — April, 2006



John's Story



I don't know where to begin. How can you express these things with words? I am grateful, more grateful than I've ever been. We were dying...

The first time that we rolled in the gate at Rose Creek Village, my heart was almost dreading the experience. We were burned pretty badly in some other seemingly similar situations, and we were completely sick of being religious. I wanted God, but I was done. Everything felt empty to me and the thought of serving him just made me kind of sick. Every expression was gross and trite. I was closing up inside.

We knew without a doubt that God had led us to Tennessee. It was a dream for us. We were staying on some land owned by my parents-in-law. Our dear friends from Orlando helped us move. As they rolled out of our driveway to return to Florida my heart sank... something inside of me felt like this was the end. We were alone.

The pleasantries of having 60 or so acres to yourself can wear off pretty quickly. The boredom and self-loathing kick in. I think that many of us just accept the feeling and get used to it. We all know that feeling if we pay attention, lingering in the back of our minds. I knew that God had to want more for me than another high, another toy, another way to entertain myself until I die.

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An Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of The Stonehouse Chronicles. We, the people of Rose Creek Village, desire to somehow let the world know of the extraordinary Life we've been given. For the past 16 years, we have been the recipients of a most gracious outpouring from Heaven: a life that has never dimmed or waned amid avid persecution and continues to grow brighter every day; a life that not only included our children but their children as well; one so completely satisfying it seems to be the fulfillment of what was spoken over 2500 years ago...

“Look here! You who have no money, come buy and eat. Yes, come buy wine and milk without money and without

price. Why do you spend your money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance!” (The Prophet Isaiah)

We who had no money (ability within ourselves) desired that which was priceless (His Life). We only knew He had promised, “I have come that they might have Life and that it would be super abundant.” And so, forsaking all that no longer satisfied, we gathered together to listen carefully to Him and to eat only what He determined to be good. The abundance of Life that came overwhelmed our ability to contain it; so now all that we have heard, all that we have seen, all that we have handled with our hands concerning this Word of Life, and all that has been demonstrated to us we want to share with you. We now believe this is that Life which has always existed between the Father and His Son. Our desire is to share a Life with you, that you would have friendship with us, because our friendship is with God and is so very delightful.

Come with us; walk through the hallways and rooms of the Stonehouse and see the works of His hands.

(John's Story - Continued from page 1)

The village is at the end of a long and winding little road that is covered by trees. It would be dishonest to say that thoughts of compounds and creepy cults don't occur in your head as you meander along this road that seems only to get narrower the closer that you come to the village. But it all dissipates so

quickly when you see the truth of it all. My friend Hannah greeted us at the gate. She looked more

beautiful than I have ever seen her: healthy and pregnant and well cared for. She was sitting with her son outside of the stable barn. We hugged, and I was peeking around her, looking around.

Right inside the barn, one of the younger girls was tending to the horses. This girl was 11 at the time. Hannah introduced us, showing us the horses. The girl smiled. She was about the prettiest, healthiest little girl that I had ever seen. (I won't name her to save her ego) We walked through the barn and started making our way into the village. It was beautiful. Hannah told me the other day that I had leaned over to my wife, Yvonne, and said, "It's gonna be really hard for me not to want to be here."

Visit after visit only served to show us our loneliness. We actually only visited about 3 or 4 times before we just couldn't stay away. The spirit knows what it wants; the flesh protests. I was seeing the lives of these people and was simply in awe of them. The freedom and life that they shared together was unlike any that I had ever seen. They brought us into their homes and cared for us as though we were their own...and it turned out that we were.

We ended up staying for a week during the Ingathering (the VillageFest) that happens in the fall. I was commuting to my job that was about an hour away. Each ride there and back felt longer and longer. My heart was so torn. So much opportunity had been given to us, and now we were considering the idea of pitching all of our stuff and joining this village.

Why? What is so different? Why do I need to live there? Surely this is just a

phase...

The week that we stayed, my wife got sick—Not just sick, but sickness after sickness... the cold, then the flu, then pink-eye. I had to work. I felt horrible. An amazing thing happened, though, that happens here on a daily basis; they cared for my wife.

"It's gonna be really hard for me not to want to be here."

They loved her deeply, giving her medicine and herbs and rest. They took care of our kids, who

were happier than ever. They showed no sign of frustration or annoyance nevermind that we would come into their homes and get sick. We were sick... and they just opened their arms with love and acceptance. The love we experienced was so real and powerful. This love was not contrived or faked. This was look-you-in-the-eye-and-tell-you-that-we're-in-this-for-the-long-haul kind of love.

So we moved in; with love, things fall away. A lot has changed in our lives. Things have drifted out that we just don't want anymore. In the 6 months that I have lived here, no one has ever asked me to give up anything; and yet everyday I find myself wanting and needing less and less of all that used to fill my void.

So, back to that day, walking up the hill with Hannah; I am in awe of what I see around me. I cannot believe the immeasurable love of the Father in heaven. How could he care to save me from my empty ways? Why would he care? But he does, and I'm through with debating it. There is a city of God where people actually care for each other; where we teach each other how to live free; a city that, by the daily grace of our Creator, lives and breathes love and compassion.

Hallelujah Jerusalem!!! The city of God is alive and I am not dead any longer—our God lives!

So I will continue to walk up that hill with Hannah, and with every other person that comes along. We will give our lives to each other. Walking up that hill, further up and further into the great city of God...

rose creek village arts



Adding color, beauty and joy to our lives is what Rose Creek Village Arts is all about. Imagine getting to live in a place where every household includes artists that help us express the joy we have inside. The form it takes is as varied as the artists themselves.

We are known in the local area mainly for our performing arts. But there is a promising

group of artists here that I'll call the visual artists. With their hands and hearts, the visual artists bring to view the feelings we have for life, God, and each other. They capture how we see the world around us for the enjoyment of others.

There are already many mediums used: drawing, painting, sculpting, pottery, ceramics, ironworking, photography, jewelry design, beadwork, textile design, calligraphy, and mixed media. And there are plenty of chances during the year to use our talents; such as our annual VillageFest (open to the public in September); the Christmas Parade; and our own drama events, passages and wedding celebrations. Our art is used to enhance the performances through costuming, backdrops and props. Our skills are also used in the illustrations used in the posters and brochures announcing our events.

We are always looking for new things to try and ways to improve what we already love to do, so you can see why we are excited about two things that are happening this year. One is getting the needed instruction in art for our artists, and the other is taking the first steps to having our very own pottery.

We have fantastic artists here who specialize in drawing and paint. One is Jeremiah, who has a degree from Columbus College of Art and Design. While he is a super portrait artist and excels in any subject he chooses, he specializes in the realm of the mystical, fiction, and fantasy. He began a basic drawing class for the art guild this past month.

And now there is something new baking with the artists at Rose Creek Village—literally. Almost two years ago our Art Guild held an auction of specialty desserts to help raise funds for the visual arts. We wanted to use the money raised to help buy supplies for the art we've already begun, but we also had ideas of starting our very own village pottery.

It was a great success. We raised much more than we expected. After buying needed supplies and refurbishing our Art House, we were still able to purchase two used kilns and over 300 ceramic molds. Since then, we have cleaned and cataloged the molds and built shelves. Robert, one of our most diversified artists, has helped us by getting the kilns up and running and researching the how-to of making ceramics. With Anavah's help, he also began pouring and firing our first pieces.

But ceramics will not be the only thing we will be firing in those kilns. Bethlehem, a clay sculptor, and Faith have just begun pottery classes with Eric Botbyll in Jackson, TN. From the first time they put the clay on the wheel and felt it mold to the pressure from their hands, they knew that pottery was for them. And though it will take years to learn and to develop their skills, they are sharing what we have learned so far. As in all things here in the village, where one goes, others follow and take it even further. We are very excited about what God has given us in the way of help and hope for a village pottery.

For more information on Rose Creek Village Arts, please visit our website at www.rosecreekvillage.com/arts

Let Your Light Shine Before Men

We were recently told by someone that she could not be a part of a Christian community like ours because Jesus needs that person to shine her light in the world. It was difficult, she explained, but she would do it, because that's what a Christian is called to.

There is a lot of focus on the individual side of Christianity in America. This is not only because America has always honored "rugged individualism." The problem is made worse by the English language.

Ours is one of the only languages with no plural word for "you." The word "you" has to serve whether you are talking to one individual or a whole crowd. Some sections of the country have compensated for this by the use of terms like "y'all" in the South, "yous guys" in the northeast, and "you guys" in other places.

Greek, the original language of the New Testament, did not have this problem, but we have lost the ability to translate it. Fortunately for us, this has not always been so. Four hundred years ago, when the King James Version of the Bible was translated, English still had both a singular and plural you. You might be interested to know that "you" was the plural form. The singular form was "thou."

Perhaps you thought that "thou," "thee," and "thy" were polite or respectful forms. They were not. They were simply the singular form, and they are used in the King James Version whenever one person is being addressed. If multiple people are being addressed, then "ye," "you," or "your" are used. It is always good to keep a KJV around somewhere so that you can see who is being addressed in any verse.

Let's look at the command for us to "shine the light" in the King James Version.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matt 5:16).

As you can see, the command to shine our light before men was not addressed to us as individuals, but it was addressed to us as a group. I would like to look at some passages of Scripture that explain why.

Let's begin right here in Matthew 5. For this verse, we'll stick to the KJV, so we can see the plurals, and then use easier versions for the passages we'll be reading.

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid" (Matt 5:14).

Again, it is "ye," a plural you, that are the light of the world. It is a city, not an individual, set on a hill that cannot be hidden. An individual cannot shine much of a light to the whole world, and he can certainly be hidden on a hill. A city, however, can shine a light to the whole world around, and it cannot hide on a hill.

We were not left to depend on one verse to understand this. God took the time, repeatedly, to state this principle clearly. It is the church, not the individual, that is the light of the world. It is the church that must shine to the world, and the reason for this is explained repeatedly in the New Testament.

Let's look at Ephesians 4.

"I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, urge you to walk worthy of the calling you have received...diligently keeping the unity of the Spirit with the peace that binds us" (Eph 4:1,3; all quotes are from Holman Standard Christian Bible, unless otherwise noted).

Notice the word diligently here. Paul wants us to work at the unity of the Spirit with great effort.

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope at your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all" (vv. 4-6).

Do you get the feeling that the word "one" is important here? First, he has told us to work at unity with great effort, and then he spends three verses telling us that the word one is at the heart of our faith.

Skipping to v. 11.

"And he personally gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the training of the saints in the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ..." (vv.11,12).

Notice here the purpose of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. They train the saints for the work of ministry, but in the end, the purpose of all of these is the building up of the body of Christ.

Personally, I think this attaches great importance to the building up of Christ's body. These apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers are described as gifts from Christ himself. They are provided for one purpose, that the body of Christ may be built up. This is a lot of effort to be put into this work. Paul begins to tell us why in the verses that follow.

"...until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into a mature man with a stature measured by Christ's fullness" (v.13).

Notice something here. "We all" will reach unity in the faith and the knowledge of God's Son as the body of Christ grows. This is an important point. We grow as the body of Christ grows. The New Testament repeats this principle over and over again. This is the reason that Jesus devotes so much manpower—apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers—to the growth of the body of Christ. This is the

reason that Paul says we must "diligently" keep the unity of the Spirit. We each will grow only as the body of Christ grows.

There is one more principle here that I don't want you to miss, though it doesn't belong to this lesson. The unity of the Spirit comes first, and then the unity of the faith. Paul commands the keeping of the unity of the Spirit, with diligence, back in v. 3, and then he promises, here in v. 13, that the result of keeping the unity of the Spirit and growing together is that we will reach unity of the faith.

Almost every church has this backwards. Wouldn't it be something if a church did not write up a statement of faith and by-laws when it formed, but instead declared, "We won't know what our statement of faith and by-laws will be until we have come together, diligently preserved our unity in the Spirit, and grown together, being taught by God"? Instead, most churches write their doctrine down, then diligently preserve their own private unity of the faith, completely ignoring whatever unity of Spirit they might have with the church down the street. A declaration of faith will never promote or create unity of Spirit, but unity of Spirit will create the unity of the faith.

Let's look at why.

"Then we will no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown about by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit" (v. 14).

According to Scripture, it is diligently preserving the unity of the Spirit—then growing together through the gifts that Jesus gives to the church—that will cause us not to be tossed around by every doctrine that comes along. Why do churches battle over doctrine? Why do there seem to be a thousand interpretations of Scripture, one for

(Continued on page 6)

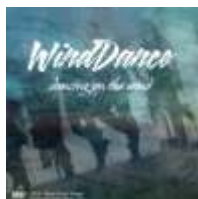
**"It is the church,
not the individual,
that is the light
of the world."**

DVDs For Sale

Our creative team, Village Creative Studios, has produced several DVD movies. DVDs are \$10.00 each, and can be ordered by contacting us either by phone or email: Toll Free: (888) 849-5344 - Email: info@rosecreekvillage.com



Mercy Homes: Saving the Next Generation
Voice of Gospel Ministries in Trichur, India is actively working to rescue India's children from hunger and death. Find out what is being done and how you can help in this endeavor of love. 13 min. *If you are interested in a presentation on Mercy Homes please contact us toll free at (888) 849-5344.*



WindDance: Dancing on the Wind
Get a peek behind the scenes at life in WindDance. Members tell the story of how they came to form their unique Irish style dance troupe. Inspiring and informative this DVD is a must for WindDance fans!



Kúla: We are Brothers
Find out how the life these seven young men share became the inspiration for their music and band. "Irish music and dance is all about people being together, and that's what we're about too," says one band member, revealing what could be considered their band motto. They play for the sheer love of life and to share that love with all who hear them. This is their story.



WindDance and Kúla at the North Texas Irish Festival
You don't want to miss out on this dynamic performance as we join WindDance and Kúla at one of the largest Irish Festivals in the nation!



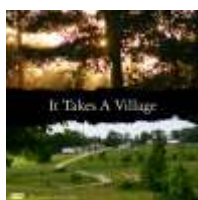
The Friendship: A Gathering of Friends
Christ says his people will be known by their love for one another. In West Tennessee people are stepping out together to say "I need you to survive." The answer to all the division and separation suffered among God's people is not in more teachings and more bible study, but in reaching out in love to one another and realizing our profound need of true friendship and brotherhood. This is our vision.



Rose Creek Village Arts
Interested in what Rose Creek Village Arts has to offer? This DVD offers promotional information and great footage of WindDance, Kúla, and our annual VillageFest featuring multicultural dance, music, and dramatizations.



Arts In McNairy presents 'Annie'
A delightful adaptation of the Broadway musical brought to you by AIM (Arts In McNairy) and Rose Creek Village Arts.



It Takes A Village - Free!
If you would like to learn more about Rose Creek Village, then write to us, and we'll send you a copy of *It Takes A Village* at no charge. This DVD offers a glimpse into the lives of the people in the village. You can either write to us using our return address or email us at info@rosecreekvillage.com.



It all started with a simple dance step called the grapevine. We would dance it in circles during our times of praise and worship together back in the days when we looked more like a small home church than a village. The children especially loved it and would spend hours dancing together, building off that first step, developing new ones and making up dances to go with the songs we sang at our gatherings.

Dance was a natural product of the new joy we were finding in life together; therefore, as we grew and evolved together, so did our dances. They became richer and more expressive of our hearts as time went on. As our children developed close friendships and began to explore what they could contribute to our life, they began to choreograph dances that would express the unity and love they sought.

Then someone brought home a video of a Riverdance performance. That was like handing them the moon. There was something about Irish dancing that captured the spirit of friendship, unity and just plain fun. You could hardly watch it without jumping up and dancing yourself! The youth were so taken with it that they pooled their money together to hire an Irish dance instructor for an all day workshop. Then they dove right in. A month or so later they presented their first dance. We had never seen them as knit together as they were that night.

Their desire to become a performing dance troupe was gradually realized as they grew in confidence, determination and skill. Everyone in our village

supported their efforts wholeheartedly and after a period of about two years WindDance was born. Their desire to portray through their dance the joy and togetherness of life in God has fueled them through all the hard work of building the troupe.

From the beginning it was important that the troupe be more focused on friendship than perfection and technique. There were many varying levels of ability among them and it was amazing to watch them learn to compensate for that. The dancers who were quick to catch on laid their own ambitions aside to assist and teach weaker dancers until everyone was ready to perform. If the desire to dance was there, a place was made to partake in the fun!

Today WindDance continues to thrill audiences with their enthusiasm for life. They have recaptured the essence of folk dance in a spellbinding way, taking their audiences with them back to "the way it's meant to be." Although there's a time and place for perfection and technique, WindDance brings back the wholesome reality that dance should be fun for everyone, young and old alike. Their wish for everyone who crosses their path is always "we hope you dance!"

For more information or for booking contact Simchah Park at (731) 610-5517 or email simchah@rosecreekvillage.com.

Visit our website at www.rosecreekvillage.com/winddance

From the Hearts of our Children

Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?

By Cassie Briggs, age 16

Does God hate you or does He just not care what happens to you? Does He simply let bad things happen to see how much you can handle before you quit?

I was 10 years old when my mother died, and I had four siblings to help my dad take care of. It was hard, and it caused me to cry out to Him all the time. I was always asking God, "Why, God? Why did You let this happen to me? Couldn't You have allowed this to happen differently?"

The days I thought I couldn't go on anymore I felt Him the most. I talked to God throughout the day wherever I was, and it made me more aware of Him. I felt Him comfort me with the sweet, warm breezes, the birds' songs, or through one of my dear friend's laughter or their hug and smile.

I had to grow up fast during that time. As life went on I became angry about it, because I had the responsibilities of a woman but not the privileges of a woman. While others my age could go and play, I could not. I stayed angry about it for a long while until I looked at everything. I realized God was trying to give me something to give to others who have had the same experiences with losing their mothers. Not only that, He was helping me to become who He intends me to be, and so I took everything to heart. I also thanked God for all the support He had given me through the people who live around me, my friends and family—the Rose Creek villagers.

There are two ways to respond to our difficulties: we can wonder why, and ask God to show us what we can learn through them; or we can use them as an excuse to be the way we are. But God is giving us a way to come close to Him. He brings the circumstances to us as a mirror to show us the truth about ourselves so we can change and to show us how much He loves us.



Job, for example, had the worst things happen to him. Job struggled a lot, but he never turned his back on God. When he asked God why these things had happened, God answered saying, "Have you ever in your life commanded the morning, And caused the dawn to know its place; That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, And the wicked be shaken out of it?" Then Job realized who he was and who God is. Job then not only heard God with the hearing of his ears, but also with the seeing of his eyes.

I believe that the bad things God brings are only bad from the view of the person to which those things are happening. God uses such things to bring us closer to Him. Some people never accept this, and they become bitter and angry; others look to God, take everything to heart, and draw near to Him. In turn, He makes them more spiritual and more willing to do His will.

I believe that when bad things happen, a person always has a choice of which path to take: the first, come closer to God, and learn to be who He wants them to be; or the second, become hard-hearted, angry, and bitter. I want God to help me always to choose the first path when He lets something happen to me so that I can be everything He wants me to be. When the choice is before you, which will you choose?

What A Woman!

By Esther, age 13

Gannah, my mom, runs a grocery store, helps manage a house of 21, teaches a baby class, and still has time to care for and love her ten children.



As a young girl, she dreamed of having a lot of children. She wanted to have mostly girls so that they would be able to go and serve other people. Well, her dream came true. Now she is the mother of eleven: eight girls, two boys, and another baby on the way. And she still wants to have more children. She says, "It's wonderful, but it is a lot of hard work."

When she first started having children, it was very hard. She needed a lot of help that just wasn't there. She then cried out to God, and learned to know Him in a way she had never before. That helped her to be grateful for the things she had.

She had many struggles being a new mother; for example, feeling she had the right to get some sleep. She learned to give up her needs and desires, which helped her understand God's full strength. And that gave her more faith and confidence in Him.

Her encouragement for mothers is: "Enjoy mothering. Sometimes it's easy to get caught up in helping your children, instead of really seeing and enjoying them. Enjoy the work, the challenges, the joy, the delights, and the rewards. It's a privilege to be a mother."



In our writings we may refer to our kids groups. We want to give you a little background, by way of explanation.

All of our children have been grouped together by age. Each group has 2-4 adults who work with them, teach them, and help them through the changes of growing up. We have outings, discussions, teachings, and parties together. We try to make them a part of every aspect of village life. This is their village, too. And we are working to instill in them a sense of who they are and who God is.

As they grow older, they are finding a real sense of purpose in reaching into the group below them and helping the younger kids who are following behind them. This gives the younger children big brothers and sisters to look up to and follow. The older ones feel a sense of accountability and responsibility, knowing that they are leading through their actions and having an effect on another's life.

Here are the names, at least right now, of our kids groups:

- The Chosen are our young-adults, the "twenty-somethings."
- The Overcomers, some of whom have already reached adulthood, are boys and girls, ages 17-20.
- The Highlanders are boys and girls, ages 15-17.
- The Elves are the boys, ages 13-15.
- The Wind Daughters are the girls, ages 13-15.
- The Sundari Jewels are girls, ages 11-13.
- The Silver Knights are boys, ages 8-11.
- The River Daughters are girls, ages 9-11.
- The Rivulets are the 7-8 year old girls.
- The Raindrops are the 5-6 year old girls.
- The Rainbows are the 3-4 year old girls.
- The Acorns are the 5-6 year old boys.
- The Warriors are the 3-4 year old boys.

(Continued from page 3)

every denomination that comes along? Because American churches have long since forsaken the way of Ephesians 4, which is the way of Paul and of Jesus, and so they get neither Jesus' results, nor Paul's.

It would take a drastic change for churches to put down their doctrines and statements of faith and find out whether any unity of Spirit exists among them. It would take incredible courage to set those statements of faith aside and let God build a new statement of faith among us as we grow together in unity. It seems to me, however, that no matter how drastic a change required to switch from man's ways to God's, one who claims to be a disciple must embrace it.

Here, our little trick of using the King James Version comes into play again, because a promise exists to match the words of Eph 4:14. It is found in 1 John 2:27, and it reads, in the KJV, like this:

"But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man should teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him."

Notice all the "ye's" and "you's"; not a single "thou" or "thee" in there. The promise of 1 John 2:27 is to the church, not to individuals. This has given a bad name to anyone who would try to follow the Spirit in learning from God, because individuals' run around claiming to have been led into truths that all differ from one another. This promise is not to individuals; it is to the church, and it lines up exactly with what Ephesians 4 has been teaching us.

Let's go back there now.

"But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into Him who is the head—Christ. From him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building up itself in love by the proper working of each individual part" (vv. 15,16).

This sums up well everything we've been saying. Each part of the body must do its share for the building up of the body, so that together we can grow into him who is the head.

This will not happen as long as we are all running around trying to be our own individual lights. We will continue not to know the truth, to be blown about by every wind of doctrine, and to portray division and dissension to the world around us. How great a tragedy this is can be seen by two things Jesus said:

"By this will all peoples know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn 13:35).

All your good works are meaningless, unless you are walking in love with brothers and sisters in Christ.

"I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in Me through their message. May they all be one, as You, Father, are in Me and I am in You. May they also be one in Us, so the world may believe You sent Me. I have given them the glory you have given Me. May they be one as We are one... I am in them and You are in Me. May they be completely one, so the world may know You have sent Me and have loved them as You have loved Me" (Jn 17:20,21,23).

Could Jesus have been any clearer in his desire for us? If the world is going to know that Jesus is really from God, it is going to be because his disciples are "completely one."

The light that shines in the world should come from a city and not from an individual. It is important that your little light shine, but it is even more important that your little light be attached to the rest of Christ's little lights so that the great light of his city can grow together and shine in increasing brightness until we reach the perfect day.

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD shines over you!¹ For look, darkness covers the earth, and total darkness the peoples; but the LORD will shine over you, and His glory will appear over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your radiance. Raise your eyes and look around: they all gather and come to you; your sons will come from far away, and your daughters will be carried on the hip" (Isaiah 60:1-4).

¹ The KJV has "thee" here, because God is speaking to Jerusalem. It is a singular you, but it is addressed to a city (see v. 10, "And the sons of strangers shall build up thy walls.").



What is 'Yachad'?

The businesses that provide the operational revenue for Rose Creek Village are organized under the Yachad LLC banner and are headed by one management team. 'Yachad' means unity. For us, it is the unity of men intent on one purpose: to deliver the highest level of excellence possible in quality, consistency and customer satisfaction.

Let us introduce you to our Yachad companies:

Yachad Distribution (YD) provides domestic and international warehousing, distribution and outsourcing. For the past ten years, California-based Impact Images has utilized YD for their fulfillment needs. As an integral component of Impact Images, YD warehouses Impact's products; processes, packs, and ships customer orders; and handles customer service needs like returns, restocking and reordering. These services are available to other markets as well.

Yachad Solar Solutions (YSS) specializes in installation of architectural window films for solar control, safety & security, anti-vandalism and decorative applications. YSS is the exclusive provider of Hüper Optik, Panorama and Sunscape Select window films in the Mid-South region. We also install Solar Gard, Madico and Lumar solar control and Armorcoat safety & security films. Decorative films from Solyx, protective films from Graffiti Gard and colored opaque vinyl from Avery add unmatched versatility to the YSS line-up. YSS clients include Elvis Presley's Graceland mansion, the Park Place Hotel, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and hundreds of satisfied residential customers.

Yachad Painting (YP) offers all phases of interior and exterior painting for both commercial and residential clients: including decorative faux finishes, trompe l'oeil, murals and even epoxy floor coatings. YP specializes in custom

repainting and historical finishes, typically serving discriminating clients who are quality oriented. YP also works closely with our Carpentry and Millwork division to provide very high quality finished trim and paint packages for new construction and renovation projects. The result of this collaboration is a higher quality product in less time, which can effectively streamline a construction project.

Yachad Carpentry and Millwork (YCM) specializes in custom construction; including residential and commercial interior trim and millwork packages, door and window installation, and custom built-in cabinetry. YCM is recognized for our versatility, quality, craftsmanship and integration with other construction trades. Our repertoire includes historical restoration, custom feature pieces and even large-scale hospitality projects like the Alluvian Hotel in Greenwood, MS and the Madison Hotel in Memphis, TN.

Over the past ten years, our Yachad clientele has come to expect the highest quality of craftsmanship, professionalism and devotion to customer satisfaction that inspires confidence and develops trust, producing long-term relationships and word-of-mouth referrals.

Even our material suppliers are trying to find more ways to work with us. Not only to enhance their revenue stream, but to extend our high operational standards and outstanding service to their other clients.

Our corporate structure creates an atmosphere where we can concentrate on quality and customer service because we're interested in more than the short-term financial rewards of our efforts. Rather, we're building a legacy for our younger ones to inherit. For Yachad LLC, our bottom line is quality, value and customer satisfaction.

Letters To The Editor

We'd like to encourage questions or discussions that you might have concerning the content of this newsletter or the life that we are living in Rose Creek Village. We will not involve ourselves in doctrinal debates, since we've never seen those do anyone any good. However, we are happy to answer whatever questions you might have or print comments you'd care to send in.

You can send us your letters by postal mail or email. Our email address is: info@rosecreekvillage.com, or you can send your letter to:

Rose Creek Village
Letters to the Editor
P.O. Box 307
Selmer, TN 38375

For this month's edition, we are including a response to an inquiry that we received at our web site.

“What is your statement of faith?”

We don't have a statement of faith, although if we did, it wouldn't be too different than anyone else's. We don't like the "once saved, always saved" doctrine and the attitude that goes with it—so common in American churches—but we know deeply what it means to be saved by grace and that we're hopelessly and helplessly in need of that grace every day.

It might be fair to say that an important part of our statement of faith is that we think a statement of faith is dangerous. Belief ought to be seen in life. What do we believe? Feel free to look on our web site or, even better, in person, and judge what we believe.

But what might you be looking for in your question? Let me make an attempt at a one-paragraph statement of faith.

We believe Christ is worth living for. We believe he's really Lord, really present, and really able to be King of his people. We believe he can solve every problem. We believe his primary goal is to build a kingdom for his Father, a household for the Father to rule over, and a body for himself to dwell in, absolutely united in love, just as he and the Father are. We believe that to make that happen, he speaks to us every day, and every day we are to die to our own desires and take up his, leading to the most delightful and secure life available on this earth. We believe that individuals, especially the individual that is our self, are not to be trusted, but that we should live in each

others' hearts, bouncing our ideas and thoughts off one another rather than just trusting anything and everything we think we hear from God. We also believe, though, that the best way to judge anything is to see the results of it, so we are very open to trying lots of ideas and giving lots of freedom, as long as we're quick to back up and change ways when we see our deeds or ideas are not fruitful, pure, and good.

Perhaps above all, we believe that God is our Father and that he is a good Father. We believe that if we are obedient to him, and we love his Word, and if we will change directions when we can tell that he wants us to change directions, then

he, like every good Father, will take responsibility for making sure we know what we are supposed to do and that we are growing. Hearing, in the end,

is not our responsibility, but his. Listening, that's our responsibility. Hearing he takes care of, because he wants us to know.

That's what we believe, and we like the Life he has created, which he sent down from heaven, so that we can share it with him.

I hope that helps, and I hope we hear more from you.

Shammah



The Art of Healing

We at Rose Creek Village have studied and experienced the benefits of using herbs, whole food supplements and a healthy diet to maintain good health and deal with illnesses. There is so much knowledge and opinion about these things it is easy to get very confused. The truth is there are more ways than one to approach health issues. We have always been dependent on the leading of the Spirit to find answers for each person and each situation. At times we are led to use herbs, diet or doctors, or sometimes even a combination of different modalities. But one thing we do know is that there is no medicine or herb or diet that can replace the simple act of caring for someone with healing hands and serving one another with the love God has given us. We realize that there is a personal responsibility for each of us to do all we know to maintain our own good health. We encourage one another daily to stay as healthy as possible to do the work we are given to do in serving one another.

Springtime is around the corner. For some, that means allergy season. What can you do to alleviate the all-too-familiar symptoms of sneezing, headaches, congestion, and itchy eyes? You may find that allergy medications give immediate relief but actually only dry up the system, not really clearing up the problem. When medication wears off, you get a rebound effect due to the further drying of the mucus membranes. This causes recurrent symptoms, and you need more medication. The problem that comes with this is that there is no opportunity for healing. This vicious cycle really makes it difficult to enjoy this wonderful time of year.

Dehydration greatly contributes to these symptoms. Water is necessary for the body to conduct all its metabolic

functions. In fact we are made up of 65% water. Many people simply do not drink enough water. One of the first things you'll suffer during dehydration is the drying up of the mucus membranes; that means your sinuses. Once dried out, they cannot protect you from the particular causes of allergy symptoms such as yeasts, molds, bacteria, pollens, allergens, and other foreign materials.

There is an alternative. You can actually nourish your body as you treat the symptoms by using herbs and whole food supplements. We have found that by using supplements, we are healthier and have fewer trips to the doctor.

Here's a simple recipe to help fight the nasal congestion produced by allergies:

Nasal Wash Recipe:
1 tsp. Baking soda
1 tsp. Sea salt
1 tbsp. Witch Hazel
2 cups Distilled water

Drop into each nostril and sniff as often as needed to clean the nasal passages. This should be kept in a closed container and lasts up to one month.

We at Rose Creek Village have spent years trying different products and have found what we consider to be the best quality supplements and herbs to help us maintain good health. We would love to share our knowledge and experience with you in whatever way we can. Each individual has needs unique to him- or herself. It's easy to order supplements from our store. We will ship them directly to your home.

To make suggestions for future natural healing articles, to get more information, or to arrange a personal consultation, please email me at haviylah@hotmail.com, and we'll make an appointment to discuss your health needs.



KULA aLIVE

We are so happy to announce that Kúla, our own Irish band, has debuted their first CD, "Kúla aLive"! This is a long-awaited treat for all their fans.

Kúla consists of seven young men who have grown up together in Rose Creek Village. Drawn to the energetic rhythms and haunting airs of Irish music, they each chose to pursue a Celtic instrument. They sought instruction wherever they could get it, purchasing teaching videos, looking up other artists to get tips, traveling to Celtic festivals and workshops, doing anything they could do to increase their skills. Before long, they began to pool their talents together to form Kúla, a band that fans say captures the essence of Irish music.

The nature of their music comes from the life they live together. Irish music is about people. It's folk music, written by everyday people and inspired by everyday happenings. Life in Rose Creek Village greatly resembles the kind of life you would find in a close-knit village of old Ireland. That's probably why people are so drawn to Kúla's music. Their life is entwined in it and lends it the genuine joy and sense of camaraderie that makes everyone who listens to it want to jump up and dance.

To order your own copy of *Kúla aLive*, contact us toll free at (888) 849-5344 or email us at info@rosecreekvillage.com. The cost is \$15.00 +S&H.

For booking information, contact Simchah Park at 731-610-5517 or simchah@kulaband.com.

Visit Kúla's website at www.kulaband.com



Hank, a good friend of the village, and Haviylah, with girls from a Mercy Home in India.

The Work in India

by Haviylah

Our trip to India was beyond anything we could have imagined. At Voice of Gospel Ministries, we found people of God working together throughout South India, shining as a light in the darkness. These lovely people give all they have even when they have so little. Now, because God has given us the privilege of joining hands with them, they will have more to give as we make sacrifices in our own lives to help support this ministry.

The beauty of India is truly found in the faces of its people! The people are such a picture of the reality of what it means to be filling up the afflictions of Christ.

They know how to suffer, taking no thought for what tomorrow will bring. What we in America call suffering is merely inconvenience. I am ashamed of the complaining that comes so easily in my own heart. We have learned so much being with the household of Pastor Daniel and those they serve, for surely suffering for God and His family is such a light affliction compared to the unspeakable joy that is the result of this enduring work. Each child given to them is one more child saved from a life of sin and death. The parents in each of the Mercy homes are so dedicated. They give themselves wholly and completely to the children, raising them as their own, as well as pastoring churches in

their own homes.

During our stay in India we traveled through many cities and villages. We saw millions of people destitute, poor, and lost. I was overwhelmed by all of this and felt a sense of helplessness. How can so few make a difference among the millions? As I saw the hearts of the children I began to know how this ministry can make a difference in the future of India. The children spoke to us of their desires to become ministers, teachers, lawyers, doctors, musicians, mothers and fathers. In each Mercy Home ten children will grow up believing in God and living for Him. They will each reach ten more and they, in turn, will reach ten more. In His time all of India will know the Love of God!! The people of God at Voice of Gospel demonstrate His Love every day. They continually reach out to others not just with their words but with their deeds. Their devotion to God and His family motivates them to deny themselves daily for those who are hungry, not only in a physical sense but spiritually as well. Our lives are forever changed as a result of the short time we spent in the company of such Godly people.

If you would like to have more information on the Mercy Homes ministry being done in India or would like for Rose Creek Village to come to your church, fellowship, or other group and give a presentation on the ministry, please contact us toll-free at (888) 849-5344 or by email at info@rosecreekvillage.com.



ROSE CREEK
VILLAGE

999 Lola Whitten Rd.
Selmer, TN 38375
www.rosecreekvillage.com