

# Stonehouse Chronicles

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

*Life & Happenings at Rose Creek Village — Volume 1, Issue 2 — June, 2006*



Ayala Hobbs  
enjoying life at  
Rose Creek Village.

**W**elcome to the second edition of the Stonehouse Chronicles. Stonehouse is an "every other month" publication which desperately tries to capture on paper the "wonder-full" life of the inhabitants of Rose Creek Village. We say 'try' because there is not enough time nor paper to contain what 230 people experience together in even a week of spirit-led living. Spirit-led living, now there's a catchy phrase... just what does that mean to you? What that means to us is waking up in a house with some of your very best friends, friends who have left everything and made moral choices to find and carry out the wishes of their heavenly Father.

It means working out our differences daily and demonstrating to our children what it means to put each other first. It means going to work with brothers and sisters of like heart and working for businesses whose profits go to further the Kingdom of God, not corporate America. It means teaching our children together not only academics, but also how to live together in a sustainable culture and society, not fearing the influences

What's Inside This Issue:  
For Those Who Weep...Pg 1  
RCV Arts ..... Pg 2  
The VillageFest 2006 ... Pg 2  
The Chosen ..... Pg 3  
Master or Servant?..... Pg 3  
From our Children ..... Pg 5  
News from India ..... Pg 6  
Yachad - Uriah Tyler ..... Pg 6  
The Art of Healing..... Pg 7  
Letters to the Editor .... Pg 7  
No Student Left Behind ... Pg 8

they were exposed to that day.

It means daily reaching out to the larger community we live in, the city of Selmer and McNairy County, being involved in parades, performances, business and development, and visiting nursing homes and helping lonely people. It also means helping our beloved family in India save children and raise them up to be true followers of Christ. In short, it means coming out of a kingdom of words and entering a life that demonstrates the Kingdom of heaven... Who could have known it would be this much fun?



## FOR THOSE WHO WEEP

*By Bethlehem*

**I** read this quote today. It's quite a sobering one.

"I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ." Mohandas Ghandi

If our nation doesn't lead out in the Christianity referred to in this quote, I don't know who does. It is with growing difficulty that I call myself a Christian, because of the picture that label brings to mind. People do not need to see any more Christians who are not following Christ. They need to see people who are given to Christ; people who are of one heart and one mind and intent on one purpose—that being Christ's mind and Christ's heart and intent on His purposes.

I watch 100 children grow up every day in a life that has produced in them a passion for good deeds. It has made them desire to lift up and love their neighbor as themselves. They conduct themselves in purity and seek after truth. They are not cloistered, nor are they tied down by legalism and religious unreality. They are real kids with the same struggles all young people have, the only difference being that they are attached to the very same Life that is documented in the book of Acts. It has produced in them what it always produces: purity and joy.

I watch 50 men strive daily to maintain unity amongst themselves in a world bent on division—and they are succeeding. They have become a strong wall for many who have found refuge in the safe place they have made with their hearts. They go out every day and work hard to support not only their own families but the families of single women here and the children we are honored to help care for in India as well. If they make a mistake, they are not afraid to take responsibility for it. They have rejected the self-seeking American dream for a life worthy of the One they follow. I honor them for that.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

(For Those Who Weep - Cont. from page 1)

I live among 50 women who seek daily to learn the way of love together. They turn away from backbiting and contention and work together to run joined households. They strive to pave a path that allows their children to learn to walk in love. Those who are married are submitted first to God and then to their husbands, not the other way around. They are strong, free, and full of life. They walk in the light with one another and together find peace. I wish to be as they are.

I hope I do not sound haughty; it is the furthest thing from my heart. I am just so tired of seeing people presented with a God who has no power to save his children, or worse yet, with a mean God who controls his followers with condemnation and guilt.

Christians today, for the most part, cannot be differentiated from anyone else in conservative America. They, on the whole, are not saved from the things that trouble non-believers. They boast almost the same statistics in divorce as non-believers. Teen pregnancy, immorality, suicide, and depression are all widespread problems, and the list goes on. Greed is rampant, selfish ambitions prevail, and loneliness eats at the heart. And so the world mocks their God and sneers at his powerlessness. Nobody wants to follow a God who cannot produce what he promises.

So I say, look for the God who does. Look for the fruit. Look for a righteousness that dazzles the heart—not self-righteousness, but the kind that produces peace and a clean conscience before God. Look for love, the kind that would lose everything for the sake of the one loved. Look for people who say, "All

I have is yours," and really mean it. Look for children who smile and love life. Ask for this kind of life. Ask for it because it is real and it can be attained. It's expensive. It costs everything. But what is that in comparison to living the life of God in reality? I know a wise man who once said, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose."

No, I am not writing this to proselytize for my community; what I am doing is crying out for an awakening! Christ looks like Christ. We cannot keep excusing a Christianity that does not produce the fruit Christ's life produces. He is not sick or old or tired or weak. His salvation does not do anything less than utterly and completely redeem the one who receives Him, nor is Christ a hard Master with brow-beaten children who mind their "p's and q's" and spend their time squabbling over doctrines and creeds. Look for what Christ says He will look like, even if it seems like hunting a needle in a haystack. He does not trick or dupe His children, but He does ask that we seek Him. Never settle for less than Him alone.

God's children were created to be as free and untamed as their Father. They were created to bring peace on this earth and to validate the ability of God to rule the world by the incredible testimony of His rule in their own hearts and lives. The life of Christ is abundantly fun, adventurous, and fulfilling. Yet it is not for the half-hearted, and requires your everything to live. You'll find that He is more concerned with how you treat your neighbor than all the great deeds you could ever do for Him. The life He gives is not a lonely one.

## rose creek village arts

What village would be complete without...a blacksmith? Robert Collins has fired up his forge again, making beautiful and useful pieces in ornamental iron for the home and garden. He currently has a smithy in the barn and you'll find him there every day, sparks flying, as he hammers artistic touches to his metalwork. He apprentices some of our high school boys in his craft as well.



Robert Collins, our blacksmith

Robert makes many things for the home, such as lamps, curtain rods, kitchen utensils, towel racks, wall hooks, coat racks and more. For the garden, he fashions trellises, arbors, shepherd's hooks and plant hangers. He also offers ornamental gates and fences.

His work can be seen in local hardware stores and home and garden shows. If you are interested in any of these products, please contact Robert at 731-439-0734.

# VILLAGEFEST

Once upon a story... 2006

It's the most exciting time of the year again for Rose Creek Village, especially for the artists here. We are beginning preparations for our annual VillageFest, an exciting multicultural event featuring wholesome family fun. We've chosen "Tale-Spinners" as our theme this year, focusing on folktales, stories and lore from around the world.



Our whole village is abuzz, selecting projects, organizing them, and making them shine, ready for our guests. There are dramas to prepare, dances to choreograph and practice, performers to costume, props to make, menus to plan, seating to arrange, advertising and hospitality to look after, and so much more! This requires all hands on deck and everyone has his or her fingers in something. It is an amazing thing to watch so many people working together and building strong relationships through it all.

The VillageFest 2006 will be held on Friday and Saturday, September 29th-30th. There will be an admission fee of \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children or a family rate of \$8.00. All proceeds will go to Voice of Gospel Ministries in Kerala, India. Concessions will be provided by Another Realm Café of Selmer.



Friday, you'll get a chance to try your hand—er, that is, feet—at dancing at a real Irish Ceili. Young and old alike will learn a few simple Irish steps and then, following the calls of our own WindDancers, dance the night away! Be sure to join in the fun.

Horse fans will enjoy the program prepared by Equine Bonding Concepts, our Natural Horsemanship team. You can bring your own horse out for a fun and interactive workshop after the show, offering some pointers in building a "natural" bond and good communication between you and your horse.

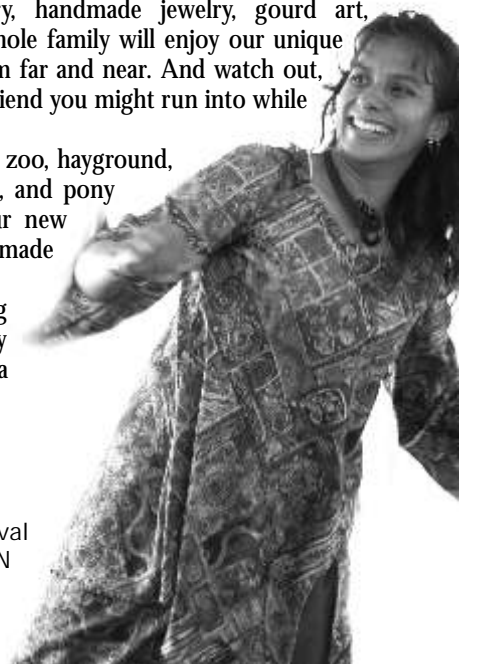
Other weekend highlights include a drum circle with African dancing—sure to get everyone in a festive mood—and we'll be featuring the musical talents of Kúla, Tröen and some special guests! Browse our arts & crafts section, where Village artists will be offering their handiwork for sale—including pottery, handmade jewelry, gourd art, paintings, drawings, and more. The whole family will enjoy our unique storytellers as they spin their tales from far and near. And watch out, 'cause you never know what fairytale friend you might run into while walking around!

Children will love our petting zoo, hayground, bigger-than-life puppets, face painting, and pony rides to name just a few things! Our new Children's Stage will feature programs made especially for kids.

You'll want to plan on catching our amazing firework show Saturday night, so bring the kids and join us for a weekend of incredible fun!

VillageFest 2006  
Storytelling and cultural arts festival  
at Rose Creek Village, Selmer, TN  
For info, call: 888.849.5344

Ahabah, performing an African dance



## Masters and Commanders vs. Servants and Slaves

By David Noah

Recently our household was having family night, and the subject of discussion was, "What does it mean to be a servant?" The children listened intently as we read from the book of Matthew:

"But Jesus called them to Himself and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many'" (Matthew 20:25-28. NKJV).

Contrasting the two mind sets, the Christ makes it clear which one He desires His people to walk in. If you wish to be great, a master in His Kingdom, you must learn to serve; if you wish to be prominent, first learn to become a slave. This is not our natural tendency!

I knew the children needed an example of this, so I asked them, *Which would you rather be, master or slave? Suppose you could be one or the other, which would you choose? Do you want to sit at the head of the table and for everyone to offer you the best pieces of chicken?* They all said yes! *Do you want to then have your plate cleared, washed and put away for you?* They all said yes! *Would you like to say or command, "The biggest piece of cake is for me?"* They all joyfully said yes!

We told them that the only problem with this is that it's what everyone wants. We then asked them, *What kind of world do you want to live in, one made up of masters and commanders, or one of servants and slaves? One where everyone is trying to be a master and commanding everyone to serve him or her, or a world full of servants whose ambition is to serve?* You could watch them as their minds processed the picture of what their own experiences might be, as they realized a world full of would-be masters and commanders would be a pretty miserable world to live in. The alternative, a world of people learning to serve one another, began to look pretty good. We then said to them, *This is why we in Rose Creek Village are learning to serve one another every day. This is why we try to put each others' desires above our own. It is why we spend a lot of time talking both to God and each other to practically work out this kind of life, and why we want to learn to serve one another in love.* I think they got it.

We here in the village believe there is only one good and just Master and Commander. He alone deserves to be imitated. It is His worldview we desire to see perpetuated because He practiced what He preached. He did not just speak what He intended. God demonstrated it by sending the perfect reflection and absolute image of His Great Heart, Christ, who only demonstrated what He saw His Father doing.

"And whoever desires to be first among you let him be your slave just as the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Matt 20:27-28 NKJV).

"...Most assuredly I say to you the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner" (John 5:19 NKJV).

In a world full of masters and commanders, may His people no longer negate His message by their selfishness. Each day, we must choose which kingdom we would reveal through the everyday choices we make. Will we be masters or servants?

## WHAT IS HEROISM?

By Rebecca Sanders, age 15

Is it of the brave who go  
Where battles fought against their foe  
And when won their cry goes out  
"Victory!" They all do shout?

No, it is not just of the brave  
Whose tales are written on their graves  
And songs are sung of their deeds  
That they so valiantly did lead.

It is also of the smallest things  
That your daily life does bring  
Such as being a friend and more  
To someone who never had one before.

You could be a hero too  
Just by doing what you do  
And you will see without being crowned  
Your name in history will be found.



## Chosen From the Beginning, Before the Beginning Began

By Bethlehem

The words resounded within our hearts. We were the oldest set of children among a group of families striving to find a way to live the life Christ demonstrated. At the time, we were only about ten in number and between 10 and 13 years of age. Yet even then, the realization that God had chosen us for His purpose was not hard for us to grasp. We had watched Him move on the hearts of our parents, changing their whole lives. He was still changing them every day, and so He was changing us.

We were not left on the fringes of this new life our parents were embarking on together. They were learning many new things: how to work together, how to share their homes, how to cook and clean together, how to run businesses, how to worship God with everything they did. They drew us in right alongside them in all of it.

One of our fathers saw a need for us to be together as a group so we could develop a bond that would help us grow and strengthen us to live for Christ. He made a special time for us to have meetings. One of the first things he did was to teach us how to pray. I think we ran farther with this than he ever imagined, and he watched in amazement as young children cried out to God together for one, two, even three hours. He told us stories and read to us and taught us about our heritage and what it meant to be a disciple of Christ.

It was in one of those early meetings that we were dubbed "the Chosen"—not to make us feel proud or exclusive, but only as a reminder of who we were. We, like all of Christ's disciples, had been sought out and chosen by Him to live a very different life. We all felt this very deeply, and through the times that we were swinging out over the pond, digging our poor golf cart out of the mud, jumping on the trampoline, getting into trouble, roasting marshmallows over campfires, telling scary stories at slumber parties, and doing all the other crazy kid things that kids do, the mark of God on our minds and hearts grew more and more visible.

Through the years, we've learned how very important it is that we stand together; that what one chooses affects the whole group, and that "being cool" and "fitting in" don't lead to honest and clear relationships. We learned to live in purity and to think of others before ourselves. We've learned to watch out for each other, to speak truth to each other, and how very much we need one another, and that above all, it is crucial for us to walk in love together.

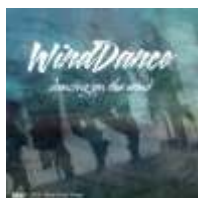
Now we are all grown, and most of us are married with toddlers and babies in our arms. Some have gone their separate ways, many have been added to us, and one, very dear, has raced us all home. We are learning to raise our little ones together and getting to make the same decisions our parents made before us. Each day we wake up and face choices about how we will live our lives. Sometimes we struggle, sometimes we soar, but always, when we look into one another's eyes, we feel that choice made so long ago by our Lord. May our choices always echo it. The mark Christ made upon our hearts is still there, deeply etched. We have been chosen... for such a life!

## DVD's For Sale

Our creative team, Village Creative Studios, has produced several DVD movies. DVD's 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. This inspiring and informative DVD is a must for WindDance fans!



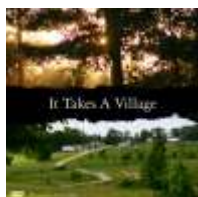
**Kula: We are Brothers**  
Find out how the life these seven young men share became the inspiration for their music and band. "Irish music and dance is all about people being together, and that's what we're about too," says one band member, revealing what could be considered their band motto. They play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



**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 more teachings and more Bible study, but 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, Kula, and our annual VillageFest, featuring multicultural dance, music, and dramatizations.



**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.

## KULA & WindDance UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

July 13 - Kula will be opening for Robin Mark in a benefit concert for Indigenous Outreach International at Casey Jones Village Amphitheater in Jackson, TN. Times TBA.

July 28th - 29th - WindDance and Kula will be performing at the Mercy Homes Ministry Gathering at Rose Creek Village. Times TBA.

September 8-10 - Kula will be performing all weekend at the CelticFest Mississippi festival in Jackson, MS.

September 16 - Kula and WindDance will be at the Hockaday Broomcorn Festival in Selmer, TN. Times TBA.

September 23 - Kula and WindDance are performing at the Clanjamfry Scottish festival at the Evergreen Presbyterian Church, Memphis, TN. Times TBA

September 29-30 - Kula and WindDance will be at the VillageFest at Rose Creek Village.



## Cloudy with a Chance of Dancing!

Being a WindDancer is always an adventure; you know where you'll be dancing next. Our latest performance scheduled for the parking area outside The Celtic Moor Jackson, Tennessee. We booked a double performance with Kula, our favorite Celtic band (smile), and went through the usual preparations. The date arrived with clouds looming in around us. We checked the weather online and decided to continue as planned, so we loaded up our bus, packed up our stage, and headed out early to go set up. We prayed the whole time that the weather would hold, but it seems God had better ideas in store...



Just as Kula was nearing the end of their opening performance, it started to drizzle. Before long, the stage was nice and slick, and puddles were forming. We gave it a go anyway, and opened our first dance. Sure enough, halfway through, one of the guys slipped, so the music faded out, and we took our bows. Everyone was disappointed, but it wasn't worth it to risk an injury.

Nevertheless, it's really hard to get a WindDancer down when there's a chance of dancing. A few of the guys started putting their heads together to come up with a plan. They decided to take a break and move the stage, so we could dance on the dry pavement underneath. The rain was light, and they figured we'd be able to get through most of our dances by the time it was too wet to continue—so the show went on after all! It was a little bit disorganized but all the more fun just kicking back, getting wet, and having a good time with great friends!

Thank you so much to our friends at The Celtic Moor for all your kindness and support. And thanks to our wonderful audience for getting soggy with a smile and sticking with us! There's just nothing like dancing in the rain.

*Did you know? There are currently only four WindDancers who do not have siblings performing in the troupe!*



*To learn more about Kula and WindDance, or to book them for your event, contact Simchah Park at (731) 610-5517, or by email at simchah@rosecreekvillage.com.*



# From the Hearts of our Children

## WindDaughters

By Aubrey, age 14

I'm honored to be a part of a group of girls called the Winddaughters. The girls in this group are Nichole, Hadassah, Samantha, Rebecca, Ashelie, Esther, Shosh, and Aubrey (myself), all aged 13 or 14. We are growing up in a village where we live right next door to each other. We see each other every day in all the different activities we participate in. Celtic dancing, horsemanship, singing, music theory, drama, art, typing, tap-dancing, hardshoe dancing, gymnastics, and animal care (which involves taking care of goats, sheep, and deer) are the things that keep us busy, along with household chores and babysitting. We also play sports, such as softball, volleyball, soccer, football, and basketball, in our extra time.

The women and some of our men homeschool us in a big building we call the schoolhouse. We work together and help each other (when someone doesn't understand something) so that everyone will get the concept and learn something new. Our teachers also make our classes fun and creative for us (while our parents encourage us to do well) so we can enjoy and get something out of school.



Aubrey, age 14.

Dancing is one of the things that we girls enjoy the most. We often travel around with our dance troupe, WindDance, and perform in different places like Jonesborough and Memphis. Sometimes we will have a big ceili at night, which is when a lot of people get together and do a lot of clapping, laughing, and mostly dancing for the pure joy of being together. One thing we do try to do is be a unit and worry about helping the person next to you so that you can bring them up to where you are or higher.

The thing I like most about being in this group is that we share our struggles and try to encourage one another. One of the most important things that we have learned to do is stay clear with each other and be truthful. It takes all my guts to do this, but I know it is necessary because when I do it, it

(Continued on page 6)

## A Worker We Should Imitate

By Elena, age 12

The magic of Asher's hands is a wonder to behold. Papa Asher is my Dad. We live in Rose Creek Village. He works here on the land with the older boys. They do some of the gardening, building, and odd jobs at workday (a day the boys work with my Dad). He is fun, kind, hardworking, and slow to speak.

When Asher was a boy, he grew up on a dairy farm in Pennsylvania. When he was five years old, he learned how to drive a tractor. At the age of six, he started helping with the chores in the barn: feeding the calves, shoveling feed into the cow feeders, and giving the cows silage from the silo. When he was 13, he got up at 4 a.m. and milked the cows, fed them, and gave them silage.

As an adult, Papa Asher lived in New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Kentucky before he moved to Rose Creek Village. When he moved to Rose Creek Village, he had learned beef and dairy farming, teaching, gardening, carpentry, and mechanics.



Aubrey and Elaina with their friends, the Winddaughters

Elena and her dad, Asher.



After moving to Rose Creek Village, Asher worked at a few different jobs. His first job was at a horse farm. He built the barns, and when the barns were built, he got another job. His second job was at another horse farm. After he worked at that horse farm for about 2 ½ years, he felt a burden to work in the Village with the boys. The leaders agreed.

Here at Rose Creek Village, Papa Asher does plowing, gardening, building, and teaches 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade Math. He also does workday with the boys. He purchases the required building supplies for the men's workday on Saturdays, when all the men work together on Village projects.

In the future, Papa Asher would like to enlarge the farming and gardening part of the Village. He would like to do this so that the boys will have more experience with caring for plants and animals.

Papa Asher says, "I think God has used work to change me by giving me work I don't like to do. This helps me to lay down my own opinions, and having to work with a lot of people teaches me more about love." Papa Asher works very hard in the Village. I admire him not only because he works hard, but because he does it with his whole heart and he does it right. I think that Papa Asher is a very honorable man.

## A Great and Caring Shepherd

By Melody, age 12

It's hard to get a moment with my dad, Chashaq. He is a Shepherd in the village and takes care of a lot of people, helping them with their struggles. It keeps him very busy! He lays his life down every day for people. He doesn't think about himself or what he would rather be doing.

He is also a watchman and is always concerned about the safety of everyone around him. He had five miles per hour signs put on our roads to slow the traffic because we have a lot of children here. He also enforced this safety rule by giving out tickets to speeders. He wasn't concerned that people might not like him for giving them a ticket. He continued being a watchman.

My Dad was one of the people who made it possible for the Village kids to have a game room, where there are ping pong tables, an air hockey game, and foosball games. He saw that the kids needed a place to hang out in the winter.

He takes care of all the businesses every day. He wakes up every morning around 5 a.m. and goes to work, sits in his office for about eight hours, and figures out almost everything for almost every business. He comes home around 6 p.m. every night, eats, and most of the time, has a meeting. He works and works and gives and gives, never complaining.

He was asked by God to be a Shepherd in Geneva along with his friend, Noah. Even though he might not have known much about God (but was coming to know Him), he still gave what he had. He learned by watching his friend and making lots of mistakes. He says taking care of people means that whatever they need, he has to give himself to them. He also says, "Giving always gives me joy, and it's neat to see when you've helped someone, especially when you didn't think you could."

He is a great and very caring Shepherd. I think he will live long and give until his last breath.



Melody and her dad, Chashaq.

*(Wind Daughter, Continued from page 5)*

brings life.

We constantly try to do what is asked of us with a happy heart. As we have gotten older, we have had to learn responsibility and that's a matter all by itself. We strive to love each other and the people around us. One of our goals is to be faithful and trustworthy servants. Another goal we have is to be a good example to all the little children coming up behind us. Respect is also something we want to have, so much that it will come naturally. To me, respect is showing you care about someone and honor them. It can also be a way of showing consideration or even gratefulness.

We love to make people happy and would do just about anything to make people laugh. We have the time of our lives when we are together, whether we are cleaning someone's house or just sitting around telling jokes.

A real friend is a person who understands the things you struggle with and encourages you to keep going. It is easy to share with your friend what you're going through because normally, they are going through the same things or have already been there. To have friends you have to be one first. Once you have given yourself to your friends, they want to be around you and give themselves to you, too. From there, you can develop a relationship that is full of giving and having fun.

We WindDaughters are very grateful for all of the things that have been given to us, and we try not to take our life for granted. I can't explain how grateful I am to have so many friends and people that love and care about all of us so much.

## NEWS FROM INDIA



Pastor K.V. Daniel

We were thrilled to receive word last week that Pastor Daniel has obtained his visa and will be visiting us here near the end of June! Pastor Daniel leads Voice of Gospel Ministries of Kerala, India, and has begun a large effort to rescue India's children from exploitation, hunger, and death through Mercy Homes and SALT (Save A Life Today) Babies. Our trip to India last January to meet Daniel and his lovely wife Lily was life-changing (to say the least) for our whole village. Never have we seen such incredible dedication and faith in our Father as we saw displayed among the believers there. We are honored to be called their friends and look forward to growing closer and closer in our fellowship with them.

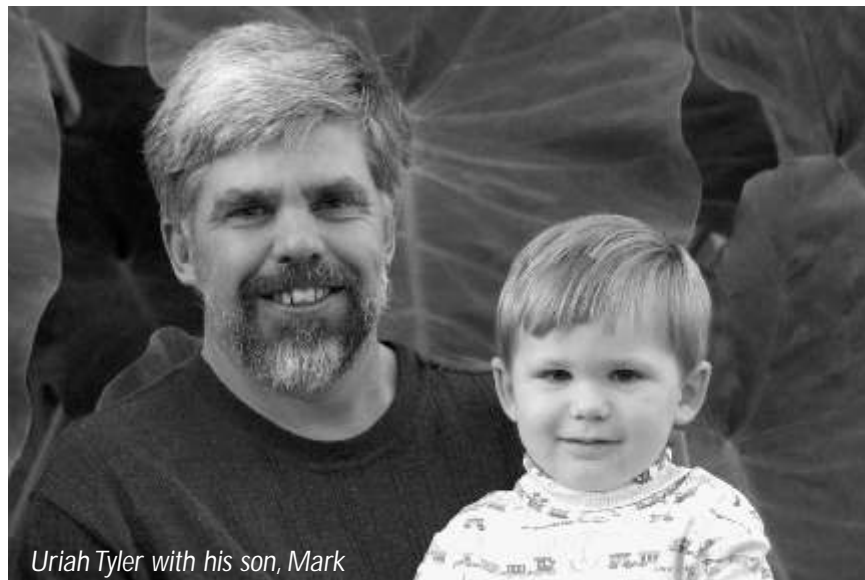
Mercy Homes have developed as a way to provide India's orphaned, abused and abandoned children with a loving family environment where they are nurtured, educated and cared for by parents who are grounded in Christ's love. Each Mercy Home provides a family for ten children to grow up in together as brothers and sisters. \$200.00 (US) per month provides everything needed to operate one of these homes.

The SALT Babies project was created to save the lives of infants who would otherwise be aborted or killed because their families have no way to provide for them. \$25.00 (US) per month will sponsor the life of a child, enabling his or her parents to raise the child and provide for his or her needs. Voice of Gospel reaches out to the families of these children, telling them of Christ, and many have come to Him as a result of the love and care they have received.

We will be hosting a conference on Mercy Homes and SALT Babies during Pastor Daniel's visit, on the last weekend of July. This conference will be open to all Mercy Home and SALT sponsors and anyone interested in learning more about these ministries. This is sure to be a refreshing time of fellowship and vision, as we learn together how to best support God's work in India and beyond. Pastor Daniel will be speaking throughout the week about his hopes for the future of the ministries. WindDance and Kula will highlight our week with their outstanding Irish dance and music, and there are more great activities to be announced, so sign up to be part of this exciting week and come enjoy the green rolling hills, happy faces, and great hospitality here in Rose Creek Village! Call (888) 849-5344 for more information.



Noah with girls from the Another Realm Café Mercy Home in India



Uriah Tyler with his son, Mark



*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 in quality, consistency and customer satisfaction possible. In this issue, Stonehouse would like to honor Yachad's Employee of the Year, Uriah Tyler.*

Uriah Tyler, the foreman of Yachad's paint crew, grew up on a dairy farm in Kansas. Before coming to the Village, he spent ten years in the Navy and then ran his own auto body shop. Ten dedicated men make up the crew that Uriah works with where skill, talent and strength are not the deciding factors. "All these things can be learned," states Uriah. "The painting crew, to me, is an environment in which to learn how to obey God and to be in the hearts of those men who obey Him."

Uriah is a meek man who exhibits fervent dedication. He rides to work daily in a van with the crew, using this time to encourage them and make sure they are prepared

for their jobs. When asked what makes a good boss, his answer is, "Your men need to know that you see them. They need to have a 'side-by-side' feeling. You have to take care of them all the time." Because of this quality of leadership, amazing things can be achieved on the jobsite.

How can these men rise above any obstacles, give 100%, and come home exhausted yet happy? One of Uriah's coworkers, Zemar, is a young man who grew up here in Rose Creek Village. Zemar says, "Uriah believes in his men. This helps us to believe we can do it, too. He is like a father us, giving us vision every day, and I admire his willingness to hear other men's suggestions. He is willing to act on their ideas if they are better than his. I respect him, for he is an example of how being a servant is being the greatest."

Uriah gives the workers vision that carries them through difficult jobs and trying circumstances. Uriah's paint crew consists of workers who excel because he helps them stay focused and find reward in their work—pleasing their customers, caring for each other, and providing for their families and others who are in need.



Zemar, who works on Uriah's crew, touches up a piece of trim.

Home birth has been a part of Rose Creek Village life from the beginning of our history. In fact, many of our families were introduced to us through the Birth Ministry in Geneva, Florida. We found that God loves to come to births! We learned to trust Him with all the details of our lives. The birth of our babies was one He seemed to take much delight in.

Although we are not against medical help when it is needed, we have found that when one gives birth in a natural home setting, surrounded by friends and family, there is very little need for the usual medical interventions. Our midwives are certified by the National Association of Registered Midwives and by the state of Tennessee, and we maintain a safe environment for birth.

Good nutrition is the single most important aspect of prenatal care but is often overlooked by the medical profession. It requires the active participation of the parents to maintain a

healthy pregnancy through good nutrition. A little common sense goes a long way if you take the time to stop and think about how you are feeding your body. We suggest moms keep a food diary to better understand their own eating habits. Pregnancy is a very good time to take a close look at your eating habits; you will be raising a family and teaching them how to eat. If you can develop healthy eating during pregnancy, it will stay with you, and in time, your family will catch on.

Healthy eating can be as simple as using good common sense—you don't need a college degree in nutrition to do it. Simple food preparation is easy and healthy. The less you do to food, the more it will retain its nutritive value. When buying food, shop the perimeter of the store first and then go to the aisles. Look for grocery stores with a good selection of fresh vegetables. Take natural whole food vitamins and supplements to enhance your diet and fill in the gaps.

Eat when you are hungry. Don't ignore those signs of hunger.

## the art of healing

Busyness, stress, and the desire not to gain weight are all enemies of healthy eating. If you tell that innate hunger signal to be quiet too many times, it will stop working for you. You may have to retrain by eating on schedule until hunger is awakened again.

Then there's the obvious: avoid "junk food," including fast foods from restaurants and the grocery store. We don't worry too much about the "food pyramids" but rather try to get foods from all food groups according to desires and then take a close look to see where you are coming up short. Get plenty of each food group - proteins, dairy, vegetables, fruits, carbohydrates and fats. Use whole grain foods, fresh veggies and fruits, and natural and minimally processed foods.

Drink plenty of water, at least 64 ounces a day. Avoid soft drinks and caffeinated beverages. Instead, drink herbal non-caffeinated teas. Fruit

juices are fine, but don't overdo it; think how many apples it took to make that glass of juice. Would you sit down and eat that many apples? It is better to eat an apple and get the total nutrition of the whole food with just the right amount of juice in it. Make a good fruit salad instead of drinking that large glass of juice.

We have come to know and appreciate the benefits of breastfeeding. No milk is better or healthier for your baby than breast milk. The very act of nursing insures that the baby will be nurtured, and nurturing is just as important as the nutritional value of the breast milk. Your interaction with your baby is necessary to develop his or her mental abilities and emotional security. So if your circumstances dictate that you will need to bottle feed your baby, nurse as long as you can, even if it will only be a few weeks. If you are bottle feeding, be sure to hold the baby in your arms, and make sure caretakers do the same. Don't ever prop the bottle—take the time to give yourself. You will not regret it.

You will almost always find three or four pregnant women in the village. It is so delightful to live where babies grow up. You can always go and find one to hold and to be held by. They will hold you fast with their eyes and smiles and are sure to brighten up your day.

*Need help? Send me your weekly food diary for suggestions on how to improve your daily nutrition. You can also order whole food vitamins and supplements from our store. We will ship them directly to you. For more information please email me at [haviylah@hotmail.com](mailto:haviylah@hotmail.com)*

## 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. While we are not much interested in doctrinal debates, since we've never seen those do anyone any good, we are happy to answer whatever questions you might have or print comments you'd care to send in.

This can be done by postal mail or email. You can email us at [info@rosecreekvillage.com](mailto:info@rosecreekvillage.com), or you can send us a letter at:

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

For this month's edition, we are including a letter we received at our web site.



*Katie Briggs, 10 weeks, born at home.*

*Recently, Shammah received a letter from a couple in search of a community which posed some questions about VillageLife. The answers to these questions say a lot about who we are and what we do as a community. Here are the questions and Shammah's answers to them.*

How and when do you worship?

We worship all the time with our work, study, play, and time together. That's not just trying to make a theological point or something. There have been times where we've gone months between any scheduled meetings.

We do rejoice in spending time together and lifting our voice to God in song and praise, so that happens from house to house even if we aren't having meetings, sometimes often and sometimes less so. Right now we're back to weekly meetings on Sunday mornings and teachings on Saturday night. The last year or so, though, we met either on Saturday evening or Sunday morning, alternating weeks. Saturday was less formal, whereas Sunday was devoted to singing and giving everyone opportunity to share what God has put on their hearts. We also have men's, women's, and youth meetings. The men meet every Saturday morning without fail, while the other meetings take place during the week.

In what kind of facilities do you live?

Almost everyone lives in large (28x80) double-wide mobile homes with two or three families to a home.

Where do you eat? Do you share common meals? How often?

We eat in our homes. The ladies in each house share the load in the kitchen, and each household eats their meals like one big family. Common meals are not very common and usually only happen at weddings, passages and other special events. We did have a big block party out in front of our house one evening that was a lot of fun.

How would you (we) determine what work within the community we would do?

That's based on lots of factors: your background, our work needs, your monetary needs, etc. Most people like to work for our businesses if that's possible, and we try to make that happen. On the other hand, it's not unusual for a person to find a job locally. We have two nurses currently working at local hospitals.

We are both teachers and serious students of the bible and theology—is there a place for people like us?

It depends. I hope we're  
*(Continued on Page 8)*

*(Continued from Page 7)*

serious students of the Bible, too. Theology means so many things, and often what it means is a love of doctrine over unity. We are strong believers that life produces doctrine and not vice versa. Obedience to God, knowing his voice, and living a life of service are far more important to us than good doctrine. On the other hand, there's certainly nothing wrong with knowing the Bible!

As far as teaching, that is wholly dependent on us getting to know one another. We've met very few people that we're willing to let walk in here and immediately teach. That fact that you have been missionaries in other countries is a plus, of course. We believe God gives a good understanding to those who carry out his commandments (Ps 199), not to those who merely study and talk about his commandments.

What space and level of privacy does each family unit have within the community?

The children have to share rooms the way we live. Families live two to a house (we've added on to a couple mobile homes so that an extra family or two is in those), and the single women are currently living among them. Sometimes the single sisters get their own room, but mostly they have to room with either each other or older children. The couples get their own room, of course.

Do you have people of all ages within the community?

Born between 1929 and 2006 and all ages in between. In a few months we'll have five 2006 babies as well.

It would be much easier to answer the questions about what you'd be doing in and out of the village if we knew you better. Generally we're pretty open and (I hope) pleasant as well, but we do have to be very careful about the teaching that comes in here. If we teach and do the same things that all the divided denominations are teaching and doing, we'll get the same results, and we don't think the results have been very good. We want to obey God and break the back of the disunity we see around us, not continue in it.

Thanks for writing. I hope we get to meet you.

Shammah



*Neharah, Tipharah, Brianne, Ashley, Tami, Chasah and Jalissa.*

## “NO STUDENT LEFT BEHIND,” ROSE CREEK VILLAGE STYLE

**W**hen I was teaching in the university, we professors used to sit around in welling frustration and find comfort in the one student who seemed interested in, or even excited about, our course. "If we can find one good student," we'd agree, "the whole thing is worth it!" And so we learned to look for that one student. Then we would direct all our efforts toward that student who was learning and sharing with us the wonder and glory of the subject we had given our lives to study. The other students became a forgettable blur, test scores and attendance records in a grade book.

Of course, the comfort of this cynical posture wore thin quickly, and so I moved on. Leaving the university, I began working with home-schoolers and took up other adventurous teaching situations. Bit by bit, the number of

students who really wanted to learn increased—and then, I came to Rose Creek.

A key task for those choosing this "intentional community" is to be a learner. Much of the village life is organized around opportunities to learn something new and to help others get and stay enthusiastic about whatever new exploration they have taken up. This spills over into the organized home-school classes, where I get to teach. Remember that before in the university, I only had to find "one good student" to have a successful class; now if there is "one bad student," the class is a failure. A village motto is, "If you don't make it, I don't make it." Applied to my classes, if any of the students, for whatever reason, don't get it, we all (me especially) have a grief to bear.

It's the "lost sheep" principle in

action. Leave the ninety-nine and go after the one who has fallen behind or wandered off. Actually, I take the ninety-nine with me, and we all work together to find out where the one got lost. We all step up together to the seemingly impossible task of not leaving any student behind.

No more welling frustration or despairing cynicism. Now we have the shared pleasure of watching young eyes once clouded over or withdrawn light up with sudden insight or understanding. Sometimes the pace seems slow, but love, after all, is patient—and at other times, an amazing amount of learning occurs. It's a most welcome change!

*Written by Stephen Fretwell, retired university professor and renown ornithologist who is now residing in Rose Creek Village. Stephen teaches math and science in our village high school.*

**ROSE CREEK  
VILLAGE**

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