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WINTER/SPRING 2010

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MARANATHA
MESSENGER

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Ron's Corner

Greetings,

I LOVE MY BIBLE! Does that come as a shock to you? I guess it depends on who you are. Some in the world today act as if the Bible is a scary book with a mystical aura surrounding it. Some act as though a 3-year-old carrying a Bible is in the same danger as walking around with a stick of dynamite ready to explode! Why are so many afraid of this special Book? Many years ago, I went to a prison to visit an inmate. It was a fairly "tough" jail and as I entered with a Bible to be given to the inmate the heavy, steel door slammed behind me. I said to the guard, "Do you want to take this or is it ok for me to give it to the inmate?" His response startled me as he said, "You take it, it might burn my hands"! What was with that? Did he really think it was a dangerous Book? It seems as though people want to remove it, because it reveals who they are. Listen to the powerful words of Hebrews 4:12-13 "*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do*".

This world seems so inconsistent about the Bible. It has been removed from the public schools, its commandments have been removed from public buildings and it's as though it is so bad! The thing that is so inconsistent is that in light of what has been said that these same people have the audacity to condemn "sinful" behavior. Who is to say what sinful behavior is or is not? The gossip columnists who speak against the Bible and its message are the first to condemn "Tiger" and say he has done wrong. Who says he has done wrong without the Book they are trying to remove from our lives? Who said? What is wrong with adultery? What is wrong with murder or stealing? Without the absolute truth of the Bible it simply is determined by opinion. Who are you to tell me that adultery is wrong—isn't my opinion just as valid as yours? I will tell you who says adultery is wrong—God does, in His Word the BIBLE! Do you get it? You do not need to be a rocket scientist to realize that if you tell your child not to kill, it will be helpful to them. In fact, it might even save YOUR life. The Bible is an amazing BOOK that will change your life. It continues to change my life—Daily! I am most thankful for the Bible because as it says, "*Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith*". I would be so lost without my Bible. I hope you can say today with me, "**I LOVE MY BIBLE**".

Until next time,
Pastor Ron

Mother-Daughter Retreat (For Moms with Daughters ages 5-18) "Deepening Relationships" May 7-8, 2010

Arrive: Fri., 7:00 pm after supper **Depart:** Sat., 7:00 pm
Speakers: Sheila Toal, Sandra Scruton, and Sharon Malone

This will be an opportunity for you to build a deeper relationship with your daughter(s) as you play and learn together. You can get away from the everyday stress and strain and focus on your daughter(s).

You'll enjoy hearing from these moms and grandmothers who will share practical help from the Bible and their experience in relating to each other. Reach out and invite a friend or neighbor. We also encourage you moms to invite your own mother.

Our "adopt-a-daughter" policy - You may adopt a daughter for the retreat who does **not** have a mother in the home.

Cost: \$76.00 (no extra charge for additional daughters)
+\$15 additional for grandmother. See back cover for financial policy.

RSVP by April 23rd.

Father-Daughter Retreat (For Dads with Daughters ages 5-12) "Understanding One Another" April 9-10, 2010

Arrive: Friday, 7:00 pm after supper
Depart: Saturday, 7:00 pm after supper
Speaker: Rusty Stratton

Our speaker: Rusty is the father of a five-year-old son and two daughters, ages seven and nine. He is a general contractor with a real heart for ministry. He will direct us biblically in understanding each other.

This retreat is a good time for Dads to get away from the everyday stress and strain and focus on their daughter(s) and enjoy scrumptious food and wonderful fellowship.

Our "adopt-a-daughter" policy - You may adopt a daughter for the retreat who does **not** have a father in the home.

Cost: \$76.00 (no charge for additional daughters). See back cover for financial policy.

RSVP by March 12. See page 15 for registration.



Maranatha Ministries

140 Merrymeeting Road
New Durham, NH 03855

MARANATHA MESSENGER

The Quarterly Newsletter of
MARANATHA MINISTRIES

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Prayer Requests

- Pray for a good response to our 2010 programs.
- Pray for our programs to encourage many individuals and families during these stressful times.
- Praise for work completed on Summit Shelter. We appreciate all who have helped.
- Pray for volunteers and materials to finish the 2nd phase of Summit Shelter.
- Pray for kitchen staff and general maintenance help for our Winter & Spring retreats. Volunteers are welcome to come for just a day if they can't come for an entire weekend.
- Pray for vision and wisdom for the Maranatha Board.
- Praise for additional guest groups to use the facilities.

Winter-Spring Schedule

January 29-31	Harvard Intervarsity Retreat
February 13-15	Chinese Bible Church Teen
February 19-21	Chinese Bible Church Jr. High
February 26-27	Father-Son Retreat
March 12-13	Home School Mom's Retreat
April 2-3	Father-Daughter Retreat
April 16-17	Volunteers' Retreat
April 23-24	Mass HOPE Home School Conference
May 7-8	Mother-Daughter Retreat

Father-Son Retreat

Winter Retreat

"Freedom in Communication"

Arrive: 7:00 pm, after supper **Depart:** 6:30 pm

Leader: Tyler Thompson

RSVP before February 15th.

Cost: \$76.00 (no extra charge for additional sons)

Fathers & Sons will enjoy themselves as they spend quality time together. Woven in the program are practical Bible studies, and lots of opportunities for indoor and outdoor activity. Activities include: prayer partners, sliding*, ice fishing*, skating*, snow sculpture contest*, and more!

This retreat will make a wonderful memory. Bring your camera!

*Weather permitting: fishing permit required for optional fishing activity.

Brochure

We have enclosed our 2010 Brochure. If you would like additional copies to share with others please let us know. We feel the very best way to get the word out is for you to share with those you come in contact with! We appreciate your help in this area.

Annual Men's Retreat

Approximately 60 men enjoyed great teaching, super food and genuine fellowship. More than that though, many were deeply encouraged and helped as the speaker gave practical steps in dealing with adversity. Many were experiencing financial stress, marital struggles, etc. It has given us deep inward joy to be a part of a ministry that is being used to help so many.

Next year's retreat has been scheduled for November 12-13, since a number of men were not able to attend in December.

Home School Moms' Retreat

March 12-13, 2010

Arrive: Friday, 7:00 pm after supper

Depart: Saturday, 6:00 pm after supper or extend your stay*

Speaker: Sue Zellie

RSVP before March 1st

Worship Leader: Pam Brown

Cost: \$49

This is a time for you to get away and be served. You'll leave guiltless and refreshed ready to take on your responsibilities with renewed vigor. This year we will focus on responding properly to stress. This retreat is for those considering home education, just getting started, as well as those with years of experience. So, invite a friend!

Babies! We love babies, and all totally nursing babies are welcome to stay with their Moms. We will provide private housing.

*You are welcome to stay over Saturday night - \$15.00 extra charge.

Website

One other way to spread the news about Maranatha is to give out our web site address. We are posting prayer requests monthly and will be adding a Wish List due to a number of requests to do so.

Our web address is:

www.MaranathaFamilyMinistries.org

At The Edmunds House

We are busy with our 37th year here at Maranatha. It doesn't seem possible Brenda and I are here with just our two youngest children - Nathaniel and Keziah, who are both teens. Nathaniel is volunteering at our local fire department which is exciting for the entire family! Keziah helps keep the petting barn in order. Our latest additions are two beautiful alpacas. Julia and her husband Joshua have moved south to Mississippi along with Simeon. We enjoyed a Dec. trip to Texas to see Mara Beth and her husband and 2 children as well as Keturah. It's hard having grandchildren so far away.

Maranatha,

Chris & Brenda

Chris & Brenda