

New Adventure for CLER Ministries!

WASHINGTON COUNTY TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION COALITION

story by Linda Goddard

Richard and I had the wonderful privilege of bringing our “JUST SAY KNOW” sexuality education teacher training to Hagerstown, Maryland in September 2007. This training was at the invitation of the “Washington County Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition”. The coalition includes about 50 agencies and private citizens working to lower Washington County’s very high teen birth rate and the steadily increasing rates of sexually transmitted infections. About 200 teens in Washington County give birth each year. The coalition partners include Washington County Public School, Health Department, Girls, Inc., and Hagerstown Community College.



This incredible coalition is now affiliated with the United Way of Washington County and is working toward its non-profit status. It is very active in many different ways to educate youth and families; development of a Parent Tool Kit designed to help parents know what to say to kids and when to say it; events for mothers and daughters and fathers and sons to address the issues; advertising and media contest to let teens have a voice in the prevention effort. Bringing our “JUST SAY KNOW” program in was part of the coalition’s plan to equip the churches in Washington County to be part of the teen pregnancy prevention solution. CLER Ministries’ teacher training event drew 40 individuals

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Indiana Region Ready for First Eighter’s Camp

Richard and Linda Goddard visited Camp Barbee outside of Leesburg, Indiana to meet with Rev. Peggy Edge, who will direct Indiana Region’s first “Eighter’s” camp this summer. Rev. Edge attended “Eighter’s” as a Small Group Leader at Athens when she was the pastor in Jacksonville, Texas. Richard and Linda also got to spend some time with camp managers, Jill and Terry Best who showed them around the camping facility. Richard and Linda are looking forward to bringing “Created To Be Me” to Indiana this summer.

CLER Celebrates 25 Years

On February 24, 2008 Rev. Linda Goddard delivered the sermon at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Midland, Texas in celebration of 25 years of ministry. CLER Ministries exists today because of the families of Trinity Presbyterian who recognized a need in their church and in their community and empowered Linda and Richard to go forth to meet that need. Linda took the congregation through 25 years of growth culminating in an amazing harvest. She told the congregation...



watering, and maintaining of this ministry. You made sure that your families and the families in Midland, and now around the United States had access to this life-changing ministry and on behalf of our Board of Directors and the thousands of families around the United States, we are here this morning to say thank you.”

“This amazing harvest is because of the faith, foresight, and commitment of this congregation. Not only do you freely let CLER Ministries house its Resource center in this building, you have made us part of your monthly outreach. The other important element in all of this is the faithfulness of members in this congregation who year after year donate to CLER Ministries. We would not be reaping the harvest had you not been present and active in the planting,

The CLER Award for outstanding dedication was given to Trinity in appreciation for 25 years of dedication. Elder Bob Gaines, who was on the original Session that approved the formation of the first sexuality class, received on behalf of Trinity. Another CLER Award was presented to Stacy Swan Schroeder for her dedication and service as a student, teacher, and employee. She was in the first class taught at Trinity 25 years ago, later became a teacher in the “Just Say Know” program, and now serves as the Resource Coordinator for CLER Ministries.

2008 CAMP SCHEDULE



SOUTHWEST REGION

Central Area/Hi-Plains Area/Tres Rios Area

June 15-June 21, 2008

Circle 6 Ranch-Stanton, TX

Bluebonnet Area/Coastal Plains Area

June 22-June 28, 2008

Disciple Oaks Retreat Center-Gonzales, TX

Trinity Brazos Area

July 13 – July 19, 2008

Disciples' Crossing-Athens, TX

North Texas Area/North East Area

July 27-August 2, 2008

Disciples' Crossing-Athens, TX



OTHER REGIONS

Kentucky Region

June 15-June 21, 2008

Camp Kum-ba-ya, - Benton, KY

Tennessee Region

June 29 – July 5, 2008

Bethany Hills-Kingston Springs, TN

Great River Region

July 6-July 12, 2008

Ferncliff Presbyterian Camp-Little Rock, AR

Indiana Region

July 6 – July 12, 2008

Barbee Christian Camp-Leesburg, IN

North Carolina Region

July 13-July 19, 2008

Camp Caroline-Arapahoe, NC

Florida Presbyterian

July 20 – July 26, 2008

Cedarkirk Camp – Lithia, FL

JIM REYNOLDS JOINS KEYNOTER TEAM



When “Created To Be Me” Camp (aka Eighter’s) convenes in Benton, Kentucky, this summer, a new keynoter will take the next step in a camping ministry that has spanned many years. You don’t have to spend much time with Jim Reynolds to understand his enthusiasm for church camp as one of God’s finest tools for changing lives. We caught up with him as he was putting the finishing touches on his keynote presentations.

Tell us a bit about your background.

I am a Camp junkie! There, I’ve said it. Yes, both of my boys, Chris (25) and Colby (21) have invited me to camp for years, and I have loved taking them up on it. I have been a policeman for 30 years and that’s another reason I love camp, I just love seeing kids sincerely seeking for something more than just the junk they find in our world today. I have truly made some of the best friends ever, seen kids free to be themselves as God made them, and been led to worship more sincerely at camp than anywhere else on my faith journey. My great wife Crecia and I have been married for 27 years.

What first attracted you to Eighter’s Camp?

Chris invited me! Yes, when it was time for his Eighter’s, he invited me to go, I went as a counselor, and I fell in love with that camp (I also got more out of it than probably any kid there!) By the way, Colby invited me to his Eighter’s later on, and I found that this one camp has set them and me up for some of the darnedest discussions over the years (even in college!) Our honest discussions help us.

What do you most look forward to as a keynoter this summer?

Seeing the kids as the lights come on, and they understand that ... Hey, God is in all of this!!!

Since you are a gifted musician, give us a stanza of a hymn that best describes this point in your own spiritual journey.

No doubt: Amazing Grace... “My chains are gone, I’ve been set free! My Lord my Savior has ransomed me, and like a flood, His mercy reigns, unending love, Amazing Grace.”

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representing 14 different churches and eight denominations and was well received. One of the churches that began immediately to use the program, Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren, has had an amazing experience with their high school class as shared with us by the teacher, Sarah Ickes.

“I want to start by letting you know how incredibly blessed my husband and I have been to be a part of this awesome ministry. To see how God is working in each of these teens lives is incredible. They have really responded to the course. Their parents have told us how it has sparked some really great conversations at home and we even find that the kids are hanging around after each session to continue talking.”

This class made such an impact in the community that they were featured on the 6:00 local news. You can see the interview on our website, clerministries.org.

If all of that is not exciting enough, the coalition is now working on bringing our “Created To Be Me” camping program to Washington County youth August 1-8, 2009. It looks like the camp will be held at a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) campground and will be part of the continuing outreach of the Washington County Pregnancy Prevention Coalition.

If you are interested in how this marvelous organization works, I would encourage you to contact Carrol Lourie at clourie@myactv.net and she can give you all the information you need. We are very honored to be part of such a well organized and dedicated program.

CLER Meets Abell-Hanger Grant Challenge

Thank you to all of our Midland donors who helped us qualify for our matching grant.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Liebrock Milagros Foundation	Trinity Presbyterian Church Steve & Sandra Lawliss
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COSTS OF EXPANDING THE MINISTRY...WE NEED YOU!

As the "Created To Be Me" camping program has expanded the last four years so have the expenses. CLER Ministries has gone from providing keynoters at four Southwest Region camps to nine camps in 2007 to six regions in the United States.

As we continue to expand the program expenses have increased due to keynoter training, travel, part-time administrative assistant, curriculum development, and meetings of our Ministry Team. To be able to keep the cost down at camp, we depend heavily on the generosity of those who believe in the "Created To Be Me" camping program.

Cost of the 2007 Camping Program for nine camps with 387 campers	
Expenses	\$26,090
Income from camps (\$627 each).....	\$ 5,650
CLER Ministries' Cost for 2007 camps.....	\$20,440
	\$52.82 per camper

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