

## Developing People (through Unchartered Waters)- Part 2

Most of the students in the alternative education program I was Director for had been kicked out of, "regular school" because of violence, drugs, or bringing weapons to school. I had already received several warnings of how crazy I was for accepting the position of Director. There was one student named John who had been in the program because of drugs.

He outlasted the past two program directors and continued to give me a hard time day after day. Cursing, verbal arguments, and physical fights were a normal part of his daily routine with students and teachers.

Other teachers would confirm that John really didn't have much to offer in life and the chances of him being successful were slim to none. John lived in a broken home and his father was an alcoholic that abused him frequently.

Once I started to look past John's tough exterior, I saw this broken 15 year old boy that had been dumped on for most of his life who just didn't do school well. It wasn't that John had a simple mind or lacked motivation... it was that he was never given a chance to exercise his gifts in a way that he knew how to do so. He wasn't good at using the "quadratic formula" or following basic grammar principles when writing, but he was good at breaking into cars.

I found this out one day when I had locked my keys in my truck and he managed to get into my truck in less than 2 minutes. At that moment, I realized John had a gift, a skill that needed channeling in the right direction. So I hired John to do some work around my house and got him to help the school janitor with simple maintenance. Each Friday, John was permitted to work around the school with supervision and he was one of the hardest workers I have ever seen.

John thrived in some of these new environments and his behavior and grades began to improve. He actually started helping other people! The next semester he wrote a letter, which I approved, and entered back into mainstream education.

So, who are the John's in your group? Maybe they don't have it as bad as my John did, but who are the John's that have never been given the opportunity to lead? Each person in your group has a unique set of gifts that when given the chance allow them to experience life in a whole new way. Sometimes people haven't stepped into a role because they haven't been asked to take that step. There are people in our groups that haven't moved into a position of leadership because they don't have the confidence. They are still wondering if they have what it takes to navigate through life, through relationships, through decisions.

Everyone has the ability to influence; it is just that some people have simply not had the chance to influence. This is where you, as a leader, have an amazing responsibility of developing people, to call them out according to their gifts. First, take a look at the people in your group and ask, "who are they really?" Second, ask them to lead where they are gifted. This requires you as a leader to navigate through some unchartered waters to see their potential. There will be the urge to do everything yourself or listen to the critics that say you should not let that person lead. But there is also growth in leading through unchartered waters. Some of the best leaders were not born to lead, but have become leaders by taking the opportunity when asked.

Take a close look at the people in your group. In whom lies the hidden potential to lead? Maybe it is having them take responsibility of the group, or figuring out and facilitating how your group reaches out to your community. It could be giving them the charge of checking in with members throughout the week. In what ways can you help others grow and develop as leaders?

For John, he has since graduated high school - an idea even he thought would never happen. He now works for a heating and cooling company and continues to make good life choices. Not only is it amazing to see John's transformation since the first time I met him, but also how this process changed my heart towards other people like John.

As your group meets together, know it isn't just for the sake of meeting... it is for people to grow and develop into the leaders God has created us to be. This growth and development influences our relationship with God, our relationships with other people, and the way we influence the community around us.

By Matt Graybill

From [smallgrouptrader.com](http://smallgrouptrader.com)

# Life group prayer and praise

- Please pray for **Jane Rodriguez**, she is Buffalo, NY with her **mom, Tessa** who is in hospital with major problems (86 yrs.) The family needs to make major decisions, pray that God will lead them.
- **Darcy Stanyo** and her daughter Nina are on the road to California to visit with Darcy's family. Please keep them in prayer as they travel to and from. They will miss us on Easter and will be heading back on Sunday. Her **mom** is having surgery on Friday so please pray for her.
- Please pray for **ZoAnn McBride**, she is in need of two people to rent rooms from her. Pray that the right people show up and she needs long-term tenants.
- One of our ministry partners in Cuba, **Alternán Claro**, who lives in Camaguey needs prayer.
- Please continue to pray for **Camp 3:16** and it's mission in Mexico.
- Please pray for my 18 yr old daughter **Amanda Peterson** who is suffering from depression and who has suicidal tendencies. ~**Debra Waldron**
- Please remember to pray for our son-in-law **Al Carter** who had a stroke on 3/29/09 and is totally paralyzed. ~ **Lysle and Lois Pickard**
- Please pray for **my son** that God will soften his heart. ~ **Paul Abbitt**
- Please continue to pray for **my dad's** health. ~**Sharon Young**
- Please pray that a door would open for **Ed** to have a stable job. We are in need of a home. ~ **Ed & Lynn Biggs**
- Please pray for the **Knospe family**, especially **Kyla** who is having some issues with her breathing and needs to undergo a bronchoscopy on April 20th. ~ **Shelly Rohde**

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## ABMW

ABMW—We encourage you to come to the North Puget Sound Spring Rally at our church on **Sat. April 10th**. A continental breakfast served between 9-9:30 am. The main speaker will be from Friendship House in Billings Montana. Mary Beth will be providing a Salad Buffet. Members from churches in our area from Kent and Mt. Vernon will be present. More information is on the Mission Board in the hall. Call Faith for registration forms or to answer your questions. We hope to have a good representation from our church.

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## *EASTER SERVICE SCHEDULE*

Maundy Thursday - April 1st, 7:00 pm

Communion Service

Good Friday - April 2nd, 6:00-8:00 pm

Stations of the Cross - open house

Easter Sunday - April 4th, 9 & 10:30 am

Invite Someone

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## Pray for our Military

- Jonathan Michaels Estrella— son of Sharon Boswell.
- Jason Bjazevich—Megan Owenby's husband—Army Special Forces— Stationed in N. Carolina.
- Joel Ellis—son of John & Midge —Serving in Iraq.
- Scott Harpell—son of Brian & Lynne— Stationed at Fort Carson, CO.
- Aaron Weston—nephew of Ken and Kathy—Stationed in San Diego.
- Eric Schmidt — son of Gene and Pat Schmidt — Camp Fallujah, Iraq.
- Benjamin Lagonia—dear friend of the Naylor family—stationed in Manitoba.
- David Coyle—son of Karen Mark— residing in Seattle, member of the National Guard.
- Adam Flynn—a young Marine safely home and out of military.
- Brett Love—grandson of Wilma—Army National Guard-Serving at home.
- Robin Swartz - Serving in the military - currently home in Everett.
- Christian Chmielewski—nephew of JoAnn Couturie' - in the Marines.
- ENS Andrew E. Timpner (fiancé to Christin Suthard) on deployment with USS Momsen.
- Devin Abbitt—nephew of Paul Abbitt - Marine, stateside.
- Duane Neyens—brother to Kathy Chapman—Nat. Grd. Afghanistan.
- Philip Ankney-LCPL Afghanistan Cousin of MaryAnn Peterson.
- Jeffrey Lillard—son of Barbara Lillard — Srg. In Army, Stationed in Afghanistan.
- Aaron Chmielewski—joined the Marines. Nephew of JoAnn Couturie

# Life Group Happenings

## All in the Family

by florence miller

**Connie Tessness' Mom, Molly**, suffered a stroke last Friday night. She has had a series of mini strokes after a brain injury suffered in a car wreck. Mel says that usually with those strokes she falls and breaks something, but as far as is known, this time perhaps just a toe. She lives in Mesa, AZ and is 86 years old.

**Emma Benner**, who just recently received the hand of fellowship and has already endeared herself to many, had laser surgery last week to shrink a growth on the inside of her nose enabling her to breathe easier. Testing her heart prior to the surgery it was found that administering a general anesthetic would not be advisable and she is now scheduled to have an EKG this coming Friday. Fortunately the nose is doing well but prayers are now needed for her heart and the EKG outcome.

A check-up call to **Oneita Owenby** found her feeling good, walking without assistance except for a cane used for "moral" support when doing errands, and although not completely healed yet, does not have a check up for six months. It will take time for her to regain all her strength but at 'phone call time she was vacuuming, so progress is being made.

**Sandy Porter** had surgery last Friday to remove a gallstone which she described as the size of a golf ball. She is not doing well following surgery and is experiencing a great deal of pain which medication is not alleviating. Prayer is needed for both **Sandy and Keith**.

An email to the church office from **John Ellis** who is an administrator in the American Baptist Churches of the Northwest office asks the following: " Please pray for **Charlie Privette**, the new baby son of **Pastor Curtis and Lucy Privette at FBC of Missoula**. Both of his kidneys are blocked and the family is now in Seattle where the baby will undergo surgery at Seattle's Children's Hospital this coming Friday. The procedure will be a "pyeloplasty" to remove an obstruction in the urethra. Recovery is usually 3-4 days. Please pray for the Privettes during this stressful time."

I talked to **Lois Hudspeth**. She sounded cheerful and she is feeling well. She has visited the Senior Center in Bellingham and signed up to play pinochle. She can take a bus - she says it isn't far- or Loye will take her. She goes to church in Bellingham. In fact the pastor lives across the street and she sometimes babysits for the children whom she says are very good. She said to say "hello" to all of her friends.

News from **Campjohn316 in Merida**. is that a lot of progress is being made. Trenches are being dug by a contracting company. The Everett Bethel team are hauling rock from around the property to fill the trenches after which cement will be added. As of March 25th the submersible pump arrived to test wells and they have water--27 gallons per minute!!

We received this thank you in the mail: "...for your generous donation in support of our Everett Police Officers. The Police Chaplains Assistance fund helps our officers in times of need. Thank you. Chaplain Bill Goodwin"

It's been brought to our attention that we need to be mindful of the senior citizens in our congregation that don't have a handicapped sticker but would benefit from a closer parking space on Sunday mornings. If you are able, please remember them and park a little further away so that they can have the closer parking spaces, they would be very appreciative of this courtesy.



Now is the time to register for Ross Point camp. Mark your vacation calendars etc. Questions, feel free to email **Steve Dittoe** at [stevedittoe@verizon.net](mailto:stevedittoe@verizon.net). Dates for Ross Point are July 25th thru the 31st.

## Purity Retreats for youth



April 9-11th and April 16th-18th are purity retreats for girls and guys. Retreats on separate weekends because, well...their different. Times have become increasingly difficult for our youth. Teens mature younger & younger yet the average age people are getting married is getting older. Technology has changed what a teenager is exposed to, 92% of teens (ages 12-18) have seen internet pornography. There are decreasing numbers of voices telling today's teens that purity is not only important, but commanded from God. Retreats meet a growing need to speak to teens about these issues. If you are a teenager, you need to come to this retreat. If you're a parent of a teenager, please don't ignore the world that surrounds them. These pressures are real! And our youth need to learn how to deal with them.



# Lifegroup Contributing Opportunities

## USHER CAPTAIN 2010:

April— Pete Sontra  
Lucky Elkins  
May— Craig Reisen  
Ron & Kay Olson

## COFFEE HOUR 2010

April 4th  
Marty Visser  
Sunday AM  
April 11th  
Florence Miller  
Women of Purpose  
April 18th  
Vince Ivelia  
AM Men's Group  
April 25th  
Mel Tessness  
Church Elders

## Greeters needed

Greeters needed: Carol Kelly is looking for a few good people! We have a need for more greeters during the services on Sunday morning. If you would like to help out, please call Carol.

- April 1st      Jan Dexter, John McKissick
- April 2nd      Sara Naylor
- April 3rd      Pat Alvarez, Cheryl Phillip
- April 5th      Gerald Allen, Maria Menia
- April 6th      Robin Baird, Oma Kiniary, Jim Naylor,  
Kovith Sysengrath, Evelyn Thompson,  
Elna Ward, Hans Wold

Happy Birthday

## Update March 28th

**Adult attendance: 417**

**Children: 9 am: 35 + 11      10:30 am 73 + 20**

**Youth Small Group: 10 + 3      Middle School: 20 + 3**



This Biennial Celebration is going to be on May 14-15 At the Summit Church in Boise, Idaho with special Guest Speaker, Efrem Smith. There are registration forms in the office or you can get yours online at <http://abcnw.org/2010/01/region-biennial-celebration-2010>. The theme this year is Fresh Heart for a new time; *"May Jesus himself our God and Father put a fresh heart in you, invigorate your work, enliven your speech."* 2 Thess. 2:17

## Check out our NEW Women's & Men's Bible Studies

**ANOINTED  
TRANSFORMED  
REDEEMED**

*A Study of David*

Beth Moore, Kay Arthur & Priscilla Shirer

Wednesdays,  
April 21<sup>st</sup>  
6:30 pm  
CC - #156

\$13.00 for the book

DISCOVERING HOW TO IMPACT YOUR WORLD

**UN DARE TO BE COMMON**

**Men's Bible Study**

\$8.50 for the study book

Wednesdays  
April 14-May 26th  
6:30-8:00

**TONY DUNGY**