

The Rays of Sunrise

Sunday, April 11, 2010

FROM DAVE'S DESK...

I was sipping on my pre-worship coffee a few feet from the Pinnacle's serving window.

"Did you read the Grand Rapids Press this morning?"

"No, Shellie, I didn't."

"I just wondered," Shellie Doornbos replied, "if that was the Reuben we know."

It took me just a moment to pull together the fact that Shellie was referring to an article on the front page of the paper. I had, indeed, skimmed it as I walked from our mailbox into our kitchen. I recalled that the article was about the effort of census workers to count all citizens of West Michigan including those who were homeless.

I was embarrassed! The light just went on for me. I had looked at the picture of a man lying down underneath a highway overpass. With only his face visible from underneath a pile of blankets and in my characteristic Sunday morning haste, I had failed to recognize our friend, Reuben Flores. I had even missed his name in the second sentence of the four column story on the Press' front page. I was more than embarrassed. I had just talked to Reuben a couple of weeks before but had no idea he was now homeless. I felt sad.

A brief summary of Reuben's story...Reuben came to Sunrise over a period of several months a couple of years ago. His work friend, Ryan Selvius had invited me to have lunch with Reuben a couple of times and later I had had a number of pastoral conversations with Reuben in a variety of different settings. He lived in another part of the country for a while. Sometime ago Reuben called to say he was back in the area. Our periodic conversations had resumed.

After church, I picked up the Press and read *Down for the Count?* There was no doubt about it. The man in the picture is Reuben and he has apparently been open about some of his struggles.

Flores said, the Press reports, he suffers from bipolar disorder and has been hampered in getting a new place because he lost his identification. In the meantime, he leans on his faith. "I know a lot about the Bible. It's what keeps me going, my belief in God."

I've been thinking about Reuben for a day or so now. I believe that Jesus is calling some of us to do more than just read about Reuben. I'm not naïve. I've known Reuben long enough and well enough to know this is not an easy matter to address. But I also know the degree of difficulty doesn't excuse us from responding compassionately.

(con't on next page...)

Most of my *From Dave's Desk* notes have had a resolution. Today I offer no easy or apparent conclusion. In fact, I believe it may be just the beginning of more stories. I have felt God prompt me, after a hospital visit downtown, to start asking a few folks where I might find Reuben. I'm going to start by sharing a cup of hot coffee with him. "Thank you, Shellie."

To be continued...Pastor Dave



Today's Rising...

Teaching Pastor: Tim Breen

Sermon Title: *A Firm Foundation: Blaze of Glory*

Sermon Text: Acts 2, 8, 9 (Selected)

Today we are privileged to witness the baptism of Foster James Clay Kulesa, son of James & Rachel Kulesa. We welcome any visitors who have come to celebrate this special occasion with them.

Sunrise Schedule for this week...

Today:

KidZone 1 and 2 will meet for Video Time in the Little Lambs room. Zones 3 and 4 will remain in the church service.

Wednesday:

Men's Early Morning Bible Study – 6:30 a.m. at the church office.

Thursday:

Men's Evening Bible Study – 7:00 p.m. at Pastor Dave's home.

From the Board of Directors...

Due to early printing of the bulletin, the financial report of Sunday, April 4 from the Board of Directors will be included in next week's bulletin.

Youth Groups...

Middle School: The middle school youth group will meet next week Sunday, April 18, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the DeWitte's home.

High School: The high school youth group will meet next week Sunday, April 18, at 6:00 p.m. at David & Heather Breen's home.

Ladies Thursday Morning Bible Study...

The Ladies Thursday Morning Bible Study will next meet on Thursday, April 22 at 9:00 a.m. for a brunch.

Donut Sponsorship...

We are in need of more sponsors for our donuts. If you would like to sponsor in honor of your family or to advertise your business, the cost is \$53 per week or \$212 per month. Please consider helping to cover the cost of these delicious coffee time treats! Call Gary House at 457-5705.

Remember Niger Art Auction Fund Raiser...

If you are interested, you can still sign up today by the information table to attend the Art Auction & dinner that the *Remember Niger* Coalition is sponsoring to raise money for Nigerian children to receive an education. *Remember Niger* is one of the missions that Sunrise has chosen to support and we encourage you to attend this fund raiser on Friday, April 16, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Egypt Valley Country Club. The cost is \$35/couple or \$20/ individual to attend the dinner, which will be followed by a short program and auction of the art of the Nigerian children and local artists. Payment will be collected at the event.

Hudsonville Highlands 5K Race...

Be sure to save May 1, 2010 for the 2nd annual Hudsonville Highlands 5K Race that Sunrise Ministries is sponsoring. Check out www.hudsonvillehighlands.blogspot.com for many details. Volunteers are needed – please sign up by the information table if you are willing to help out at this great outreach event!!

Sunrise Vacation Bible School...

Advance notice: the Sunrise Vacation Bible School will be held the week of July 12-16. More details to come soon regarding registration and volunteer opportunities. Be sure to put this week on your calendar!

Words for Wellness...

Everyone should know these cholesterol facts. Your cholesterol may be up because of family history even if you are at a healthy weight, exercise, and eat well. For most women, cholesterol levels stay in healthy range till about age 45 and then at that age more women have higher levels than men. This significantly increases the risk of heart disease.

Grace Bosma, Parish Nurse



Birthdays this Week

Today – Craig Flowers
Monday – Russ Spearow
Tuesday – Rick Golenbiewski
Friday – Deb Bennett, Elli Howard
Saturday – Nicholas VanDyke

Anniversaries this Week

No anniversaries to report this week

Sunrise Volunteer Schedule...

Trailer Transportation:

Today: Doug Gelder
Next Week: Tim Koorndyk

Refreshment Servers:

Today: Jim & Patti Wallinga
Next Week: Brad & Shellie Doornbos

KidZone This Week:

Zone 1 & 2:

Video time in the Little Lambs room.

Zone 3 & 4:

Children will remain in the Church Service.

KidZone Next Week:

Zone 1:

Zone 2: Christy Hultink

Zone 3: Grace Bosma

Zone 4: Todd Hultink

Greeters:

Today: Todd & Christy Hultink
Ty & Laura DeWitte

Next Week: Don & Cheryl Karsten
Paul & Barb Erffmeyer

Nursery Care:

Today: Tami Breen,
Tricia DeGroot

Next Week: Shelby Danville,
Shayleigh Doornbos

Want to know more about Sunrise? Our website, www.sunrisemin.org, is loaded with information about our ministries. You'll be able to explore our mission and vision, learn more about our staff, download audio and video clips, and scan past editions of the Rays. Bookmark it and check back often!

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