



THE CROAKER

Volume 35, Issue #6

President's Letter:

Hello Everyone!

This past weekend was Independence day, a celebration for breaking free from the oppression of the British crown. We celebrate freedom with festivals, fireworks, and friends and family.

This year I spent my week leading up to Independence Day celebrating my freedom in Christ and my country by going on a mission trip to the Appalachian Mountains of West Virginia. Yes, a mission trip inside the good ole U-S-of-A. During my time there I worked in the home of a man named Donald, a vivacious retired Coal Mine operator and man of the mountains. He lived in the far out mountains in a squalid 100 year old home with plaster falling from the ceiling; lead paint peeling from the walls, rotted floor boards and a leaking roof. Despite being materially poor out in the middle of nowhere, when you stepped into his home you never felt a tinge of sadness, pity or desperation. The only thing you could sense was love, sincere pure love. You could feel the love as he greeted you with a hardy handshake and smile; the way he worked beside you and directed you; when he listened intently and was open to different methods for completing projects. You felt the love in the way he joked around with and cared for his wife and grandkids; the way he cared for the newborn kittens and puppies roaming his property. In a home with weak walls, the family inside is strong; Strong in love and strong in God. Because God is Love and this family thrives on the hope His grace brings. On the walls of crumbling plaster around the home his wife Hannah wrote words of encouragement in permanent marker as a reminder to herself and her family that this household will not be shaken by poverty nor by riches. Famine or feast they are just as blessed.

One of the walls stated:

“Jesus loves everyone. Do you love Jesus? If you do then you must love everyone. The sin, you hate the sin. Sin is evil, including your own sin. Please don't be cruel to anyone 2-2-14”

This month I ask you to look around you and ask God to show you things in your life you take for granted. Maybe it's the fact you have a running toilet or that you have clean water. Maybe it's the kindness and patience of a friend who has stuck with you even when you thought they wouldn't. Maybe you forgot to thank God for your health; for in the bustle of life you forgot God has your body breathing even without you commanding it to, because let's be honest, if left to our own devices we'd probably forget to. Spread love, be grateful and thank God for the freedom and hope he gave to each of us when we accepted Him into our lives. Amen.

Romans 12:9-21 The Voice (VOICE)

Love others well, and don't hide behind a mask; love authentically. Despise evil; pursue what is good as if your life depends on it. Live in true devotion to one another, loving each other as sisters and brothers. Be first to honor others by putting them first. Do not slack in your faithfulness and hard work. Let your spirit be on fire, bubbling up and boiling over, as you serve the Lord. Do not forget to rejoice, for hope is always just around the corner. Hold up through the hard times that are coming, and devote yourselves to prayer. Share what you have with the saints, so they lack nothing; take every opportunity to open your life and home to others.

Emily Lamy

Reunion Report:

Thanks to Sarah Morton for her sharing her story with us and her experience with Aventura. We had yummy reunion complete with the incomparable cookies by Glenn Hafele, and had a chance to get to meet our new Chief and Spiritual Directors for the up coming weekend. We also voted in our officers for the coming year, (Yay Emily Lamy, our new President!!!) Hope to see you all at the car wash and Picnic!!

Amanda



Upcoming Reunions and Other Dates:

July Car Wash and Picnic:

Saturday, July 18, **10-2 Car Wash 2:30 on for the Picnic**

Car Wash will be at 1st Congregational Church of Thomaston 135 Main Street Thomaston

The Picnic will be at Art Richards House, 235 Newton Rd, Northfield , CT 06790

Directions to Arts: Exit 41 off Rt 8 South, Take a right off the exit onto Marsh Rd, then your first left onto Reder. At the top of the hill take another left at the stop sign onto Newton. It is a blue house on your right in 1/4 mile.

Exit 41 off Rt 8 North, Head straight onto marsh rd, then your first left onto Reder. At the top of the hill take another left at the stop sign onto Newton. It is a blue house on your right in 1/4 mile.

From 254, at THE Stop light in Northfield, head down the hill onto Knife Shop Rd/ Main St, at the bottom of the hill take a left onto Newton at the water falls. In approx. 2 mi the house is on the left, blue in an open field.

Servants of Aventura:

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Miscellany:

For information on Aventura, contact Art Richards at
Registration@AventuraCT.com or call (860)-307-4806.

To put something into the Croaker, email Amanda Johnson at groveramanda@hotmail.com.

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For people who have been on an Aventura weekend, join AventuraCT on Facebook!