

ABC Times

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Lifenets Charity Evening a Success

By Jennifer Stoner

The preparation for the LifeNets Charity Auction began long before the evening was carried out. As the ABC class began to plan out the event, committee upon committee was formed as it became apparent how much there was to be done. ABC students saw never-ending sign-up sheets for weeks before July 10th, and every student had a role in making the charity evening a success.

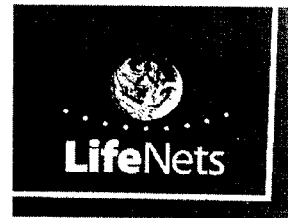
The dinner had an Asian theme, which took some extra creative juices, but had great rewards in the end. The award for most work on the event would have to go to the food preparation committee, headed by Jennifer Moen. Asian food was served and it was thumbs up all around. The decorations committee was responsible for making the Asian theme complete. Karen Sutherland, committee head, and her crew worked their fingers to the bone folding origami cranes to hang from the ceiling and fish, flowers, and napkin rings as adornment for the tables.

As guests made their entrances, they were funneled to ABC students Jerry Stam and Mark Freeman who handled payment of dinner fees. Guests were seated by one of the two ABC student-hostesses and then left in the hands of one of the many students who volunteered to be servers. A menu had been devised for the evening so that guests had a choice of beverage, white or fried rice, and teriyaki or sweet and sour stir fry, as well as appetizers and

dessert. Throughout the dinner, a slide show prepared by Natasha

Franke featuring the ABC class was played. Later, guests were entertained with duet guitar pieces by Caleb Froedge and Jessa Moser. This dinner attracted 137 paying guests and yielded \$174.28 (after costs) – compliments to the chef!

(continued on page 3)



We've Only Just Begun

By Jessa Moser

You know those days you drifted into module in a soporific haze, wondering how you could make your coffee taste more like Starbucks and carry the weight of a double espresso? The times you lethargically hoped you could somehow absorb lectures via osmosis? I guess I anticipated mental exhaustion, but the physical torpor that built exponentially along the way was somewhat a surprise. It was so comforting on those mornings to gaze languidly across the frigid room and know I wasn't the only one suffering from near inertness.

So, why were we all here? I can only answer for myself.

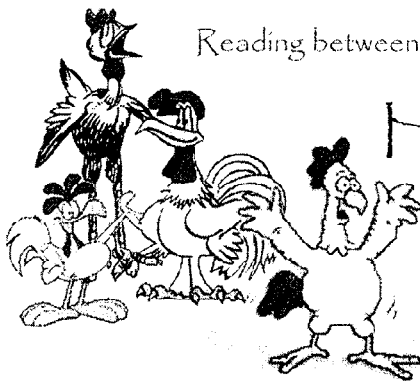
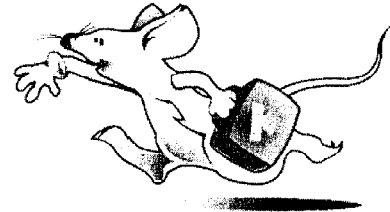


I came here for intellectual reasons: I wanted to fortify spiritual foundations, and to solidly grasp truths that I might rightly discern from the muddled mess of lies and veracity Satan has so deviously woven through the world around us... I guess I thought it would be that easy, just learn to analyze the Bible and go home. But I've come to realize that it's so much more than that: I have to internalize and actualize all of this, to make it who I am, not just what I know. It's a notion I feel I've loosely grasped for a long time, but I'm now beginning to recognize the immensity of it all.

What I've learned here can be summed up by the two great commandments. While internalizing and living God's truth is an aspect of loving God, I've also learned a great deal about loving my neighbor. I've been part of an entity that, for the past seven months, has functioned as a family. I've had to discover which role therein is mine. I know who to go to within that family when I need encouragement or a hug, who to gather when in need of a think tank, who will run through the woods with paintballs and slingshots, who will see the walls to climb, critique my thoughts, or sprint through the streets in the middle of the night and help me stay sane when overloaded with former and minor prophets, endless exegesis, and the Apostle Paul's continual run-on sentences. I know who will bring the post-its and who will make the coffee, where to seek wisdom, and where to find instruction. On a small scale, my fellow ABC students and I have been a body of Christ, working together to encourage, edify, and strengthen one another and the body as a whole.

I will leave with so much more than intended or imagined. Sometimes I close my eyes and see your faces smiling from across a room and wish I could freeze myself inside one of those moments for just a bit longer. When we got here, I spent the first week wondering if I should just pack everything back into my car and take it all home. The weather was wretched, I knew only a few people, and I didn't feel like I deserved to be here.

Yet here we are. Seven months behind us, packing up our lives, gathering our photos and memories, glimpsing, through the uncertainty that lies ahead for the majority of us, a vague and obscure image of the lives we are to lead and the potential to which we must rise. Rather than a singular end, it's forty different beginnings, and I can't wait until we all have the chance to reunite and share all the fruit that shall come of this experience.



Reading between the lines of Jonah 3:7...

Hey Human!!!



Just cause you can't eat
don't mean we can't!

By Natasha Franke

Lifenets Charity Evening a Success

(from page 1)

Before and during the dinner, guests had the opportunity to bid on donated items in a silent auction. These ranged from bedroom slippers to crock pots shaped like sporting goods to framed pictures, and were organized by Alaina Sanders. While bidding on silent auction items, guests could also have a gander at the baked goods, which were to be auctioned off after the dinner. The silent auction closed as dinner ended, raising \$892.50 when all was said and done.



As the dinner came to an end, guests began to find their seats and prepare their bidding paddles for heavy use. The emcees for the evening, David Peabody and Stephen de Campos, reviewed and organized the many acts in the variety show, as well as contributed one or two themselves. The variety show served as a means for the audience to relax and get settled in for an event that many have come to look forward to each year. Much of the work was done behind the scenes by: the stage crew, headed by Caleb Froedge; backstage help, headed by Tonia Hamilton; and light and sound, headed by Mark Freeman. The acts in the show were mainly of the comedic variety, with two musical performances thrown in for good measure. These acts broke up the main attraction of the evening into segments: the auction. The job of auctioneer was given to Mark Riley from Kansas, who has been gracious enough to return every year to fill the position.

In many ways, the auction portion of the event is the most comedic of all, with several of the guests bidding against themselves. The main auction items were baked goods donated by ABC students and other church members. These ranged from Mrs. Antion's famous baklava, to punch bowl cake, to chocolate chip cookies – all looking scrumptious. Kathy de Campos organized this hugely successful part of the evening, and the earnings for the bake sale totaled \$1,745. This year a new idea for auction items was organized and carried out by Rochelle Boyce (ABC's beloved "Granny"), which was to auction off clothing items from local dress shops. Private individuals purchased seven outfits of varying size and then donated them. Seven ABC ladies volunteered to model these clothes as Kathy de Campos read descriptions during one of the auction segments. This new category brought in \$147. Many of those in attendance voiced a positive response to the dress sale and said they would be more prepared next year, should a spot be made for it.



Approximately one half of the way through the program Mr. Victor Kubik, founder of the LifeNets organization, was invited on stage to help better inform the audience about where the money they were bidding was going. The Developing Nations Scholarship Fund is for students among the United Church of God brethren living in very poor countries. It assists them in their pursuit of a college education, helping them to rise above the poverty their nation is experiencing. This "pep talk" certainly helped, as audience members were inevitably thinking more about the less fortunate than about themselves or their pocketbooks.

The end of the event was dominated by a series of gifts. The first of these was a wall hanging, which commemorated the ten-year anniversary of the United Church of God. This was presented to Mr. Clyde Kilough who was recently instated as UCG president. The majority of the gifts were thank-you gifts to the various committee heads that served in the LifeNets fundraiser evening and were presented by Mr. Gary Antion. The final gift was a dozen pink roses presented to Leigh Carlson, head of the service committee. Leigh served on practically every committee for the event and was in charge overall of pulling everything together. The LifeNets auction proceeds came to a grand total of \$3,455.78, which included all the LifeNets donations (\$497.00) added in. This was a very profitable fundraiser for the LifeNets foundation and a lot of fun besides. Thank-you to everyone who made this success possible.

My farewell to the Class of 2005

By Gary Antion

It isn't fair! Yes, it isn't fair to only have you, the class of 2005, for only seven months. It seems like you just arrived and now having won a place in my heart, you are leaving!

You have been a class whose hallmark has been that of serving. You have served the church, the community, the home office staff and the outlying congregations. The carwash and the charity auction made funds available to many needy students in the developing countries. Your unleavened baked goods brought smiles to the brethren and funds to donate for helping needy others. With your numerous potluck luncheons you frequently showed hospitality to the home office staff. You made visitors feel welcome and reached out to the community by your nursing home visit and your assistance at the Humana Heart Walk and Run.



I have come to respect and admire the many talents and qualities that each of you has contributed to make ABC a wonderful success this year. May you continue your serving ways and serving attitudes as you return to "normal" life once again after your ABC experience. Please know that you will always have a place in my heart.

May God's blessings not only follow you, but also be upon you as you continue to serve Him in the future.

With Christian love,
Gary Antion

Have you failed ABC?

By Tonia Hamilton

Have you failed ABC? What do I mean? Well, have you learned anything while you have been here? Have you acquired the biblical knowledge that will set you apart from who you were when you arrived? Are you closer in your personal walk with God?

These questions are valid. Although they are the same for all of us, our answers will vary individually. Before you start to contemplate the answers to these questions, you will need a measuring stick to go by. Are you going to use the comparison of the test that was given to you at the beginning and end of the year? This may not be the measuring tool you need to analyze your spiritual growth. A good measuring tool will be to remember how much you knew and applied of God's word before you started ABC and how much you've changed along the way.



The amount of knowledge you have coming into a class doesn't have to determine the amount you can learn. Even if you have knowledge, you may lack understanding. If you understood the topic completely, why even bother taking the class? There is always something to learn.

Most people when taking a course will assume they start out with a perfect 100% grade. This is not true! You usually start out with zero, and work your way up to a hundred. ABC is no different. So begin your personal examination at the knowledge level you had when you came to ABC. If you do that you will see that you can only go up from there. Therefore, unless you slept or missed every class, you have increased your knowledge.

Now as you leave ABC, take your notes and your Bible and keep learning God's way until He returns. So for the record, you did not fail ABC. No ones fails if they have gained knowledge.

LifeNets Car Wash Review

By Leigh Carlson

The morning of Sunday, June 5 dawned bright and early for ABC students, as they prepared to begin the carwash planned to benefit LifeNets. Scheduled to begin at 10 AM in the parking lot of



Walgreens on Beechmont Avenue, the event got off to a slightly slow start. It seems that there was some difficulty with the water hose connection, but a few minutes and a trip to the hardware store by the extremely helpful staff of Walgreens later, the problem was solved.

Signs were made, buckets were filled, tasks were assigned, and the carwash was on. Several scattered themselves along busy Beechmont Avenue, hoping to attract customers. Many others stayed behind, working hard to give those willing to donate the best wash for their money. As the event slowly wrapped up around 4 PM, the

sunburns of several attested to their diligence (and, perhaps, lack of sunscreen). The final total donated to the LifeNets *Developing Nations Scholarship Fund* was \$377.24 – the exciting result of a day of both hard work and fun.

Quotes of the Year

By Alaina Sanders

The Wisdom of Dr. Levy:

I want to say sweet nothings to this plant I have.

Think of all the light blue worms that had to die in order to make my blue silk blazer.



For, in my spending an entire year with that one goat, you can spend 15 minutes.

Nadab and Abihu offered strange incense and fire came down and killed them dead.

When you take the cardboard tube from a paper towel roll or toilet paper roll and hold it up to your eye, you don't know how far into the future you are looking.

We can't have the battery going out when we're talking about sex.

Absolutely no giggling please. Song of Songs is a serious book.

And in the movie Jeremiah, there's a brown-eyed cutie.

And so they called him Isaac, which also happens to be my brother's middle name...and the name of my grandfather...

A Few Words from Mr. Holladay:

Those who have been pregnant, and I do not include myself in that number...

So we have to practice lawlessness and not obedience...no wait, scratch that.

Almost as soon as you get angry, you have constipation of the brain and diarrhea of the mouth.

What if, when you die, you're dead all over?

O Cigarette, I submit to you.

Be filled with God's spirit rather than distilled spirits.

I hope none of you want to be raptured...that was a joke.

Philippians 4:1 – Therefore my dearly beloved...Jonathon.

Under there...or underwear...whichever.

I don't normally have strokes of genius but this time was an exception.



That's a lot of water under the dam, but people had to get on with their lives.
Often we read in the Bible where something is an abomination. Sometimes God abominates something and it's an abomination.
Many environmentalists today will tell you not to step on a bug. Why? Because that could be your grandmother.

The Adages of Mr. Antion:

He literally sliced up people with his words.
Our snowflake checkers have not found any two that are alike.
If God can use a dumb ass to teach a lesson to a prophet, he can do anything.
My aunt, the one who was married to my uncle...
I try to take an asteroid for bad breath.



I led kids to eat grass, and they got sick.
It's okay to eat dandelion though. It won't make you sick and is rich in iron.
How big is your quiver?
How do you have a relationship with a cloud? O cloud, please help me.
I don't mind cleaning toilets. I just throw myself into it...
I must be a descendant of Esau, I have hair on my arms!
In modern day, farmers put potatoes into hell.
If you want a woman like that, you want a mouse, so go buy yourself a pet mouse and be happy.

...My squeezing muscles...
My wife and I are married...yes, let's say we're married...
I don't know if it was demonic possession or delusional grandeur but I've met several of the two witnesses.
Most people who lust have no backbone, lots of wishbone but no backbone.
I have more gray hair on my chest than on my head.
One time I went to comfort someone who had died...
They probably have dancing boys, but the Koran doesn't talk about that.
In Jerusalem, do as the Jews do...horn you, horn you, they horned us!

And all the rest::

I had another thought and it was profound...but I can't remember what it was. ~Darris McNeely

Are you related to your brother, David? ~Dr. Ward

That's the difference one man can make...or one cup of tea... ~Mr. Rhodes
There are some strange noises coming from back here. Oh, is that me? ~Mr. Rhodes
The facts have been changed to confuse the innocent. ~Mr. Rhodes



If you were hanging with your hands above your head, you can't breathe even four breaths. You should try it sometime. ~Donald Hurst



If I could have jumped, I would have been jumping. I was pacing if that counts for anything. ~Natasha Franke

Can I get an 'Amen!' No wait, I changed my mind. ~Mr. Kirkpatrick

Well, there was this neighborhood cat that came around...no, wait, that was our cat. Our cat was the neighborhood cat. It just wandered into our garage one day and laid a bunch of kittens. ~Jennifer Stoner

If marijuana didn't do anything to you, why would you smoke it? Why not smoke a banana, or a tie?
~*Marijuana Video*

In response to the question asking why it was okay to kill the native people in Canaan...well, they were pagans. ~*Mr. Fenchel*

