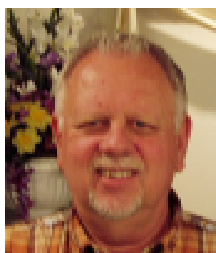




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### **Celebrating 20 Years of Ministry at RVCC**

To all our RVCC family from Cheri and me,

Thank you so much for the expressions of love and appreciation at the recent celebration of our twenty years of ministry here at RVCC. Special thanks go to Randy Furtado and the board of Elders, along with some others who made all this possible. And congratulations to all of you for keeping it a surprise. There were many opportunities for a leak, but truly Cheri and I knew nothing about it. So thanks to all of you.

So, twenty years of ministry have gone. There were some great times in those twenty years, and some challenging times. What will the next twenty be like? Only God knows that. Our responsibility is to take things one day at a time, committed to serving Him and each

other, knowing that the future is safe within His care. We can count on there being some difficult, challenging times because we have an enemy who seeks our harm. He will do whatever he can to stir up disunity and disharmony. Our protection against Satan's ways is to stay close to Jesus and close to one another. James 4:7-8 says, "Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." So we need a close, growing walk with the Lord to enable us to stand firm against the attacks of the evil one. But we need each other as well. The Apostle Paul encourages us in Galatians 6:2 to bear one another's burdens, while the author of Hebrews exhorts us in Hebrews 12:12 to "strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble." As brothers and sisters in Christ we are to stand together, supporting and encouraging one another, praying for one another, and simply loving and accepting each other. That's why our focus in many of our small groups right now is on the one another's – we need one another to stand strong in the Lord.

None of us knows what the future will bring, but if we continue to grow in our connection with God and with one another we can trust God for the next twenty years, just as we trusted Him for the past twenty. May His blessing rest on each one of us as we seek to walk with Him and each other.



# Library Corner

## **A Lifetime of Wisdom**

Joni Eareckson Tada

I was only seventeen, just a girl, when God asked me for everything I had ...my health, my hopes, my independence, my dreams, my freedom and my mobility. He took it all. I was so angry with Him that I tried to push Him away. God relentlessly held me more closely.

Looking back, forty years later, I understand that God has changed and healed me - my heart and my mind - in the most unexpected ways, giving me rubies of His wisdom about an unbending faith and an experience of His mercy I can now tell you about.

Was it a fair exchange, my freedom and no wheelchair for the rubies of wisdom I've been given? Absolutely. In this I have learned at the feet of the Lord Jesus, embracing the way God heals us, even when we rage at Him in anger, fear and despair.

This book is not about what I lost in that diving accident so long ago. It is about the wisdom He's given me to live victoriously in the face of disappointments and challenges we all face.

## **AND FOR A CHANGE OF PACE:**

### **Burn**

Ted Dekker

Janeal has long felt trapped in her father's Gypsy culture. Then one night a powerful man named Salazar Sanso promises her the life she longs for - if she will help recover a vast sum of money tied to her father.

When the plan implodes, Sanso and his men attack the gypsy settlement and burn it to the ground. During the blaze, Janeal is faced with a staggering choice. The impact of that moment changed her forever. As her past rises from the ashes, Janeal faces a new life or death choice. And this time, escape is not an option.

### **Recommendation** by Rose Marie Stanley

A book I would highly recommend is not a fiction (800 series), but one that all would find thought provoking. It is "*Don't Waste Your Sorrows*" by Paul Billheimer found on the 248.4 shelves. It will not only grab your attention but keep you thinking for a long while.

## Anger and Forgiveness

Annymous

When I read the story of Joseph I had a hard time understanding what he was going through - reconciliation with brothers.

- One moment acting harshly the next overcome with sorrow.
- Playing tricks on them by hiding their money in their packs.
- Keeping one as hostage and accusing another of stealing,
- Then finally forgiving them.

When grace finally broke through, the sound of his grief and love echoed throughout the palace. Joseph had truly forgiven them.

In Philips Yancey's book "*What's So Amazing about Grace?*" he speaks of the Lord's prayer. It says to forgive one-another as He has forgiven us. He tells us forgiveness is an act of faith, and giving it to God to take care of is the best. But he also goes on to say forgiveness is not easy.

*"I never find forgiveness easy, and rarely do I find it completely satisfying. Nagging injustices remain, and the wounds still cause pain. I have to approach God again and again, yielding to Him the residue of what I thought I had committed to Him long ago. I do so because the gospels make clear the connection: God forgives my debts as I forgive my debtors. The reverse is also true: Only by living in the stream of God's grace will I find the strength to respond with grace towards others."*

So in reading this passage, I have found I am able to forgive myself, and have truly found Grace.



## Ladies— Take a Coffee Break with God

Calling all ladies interested in spending time studying God's Word and experiencing a personal, vital and growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Each Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, the ladies of Coffee Break Bible Study gather to sing, worship, pray and engage in small group discussions.

The Coffee Break Bible Study is open to anyone from any church wanting to discover new truths from the Bible. Current small groups are studying the book of Mark. Coming activities include a Valentine potluck on February 11<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 – 1:00. A special program is being planned for this event.

Take time each Thursday morning to enjoy the fellowship of other believers and experience a refreshing from God as you begin your day.

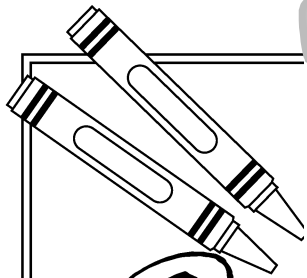


## Drive-in Movie Night

February 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Get your mom, dad, grandma or grandpa to help you make a car from cardboard boxes. Be as creative as you like! Bring a friend and 'drive-in' for a fun movie night.

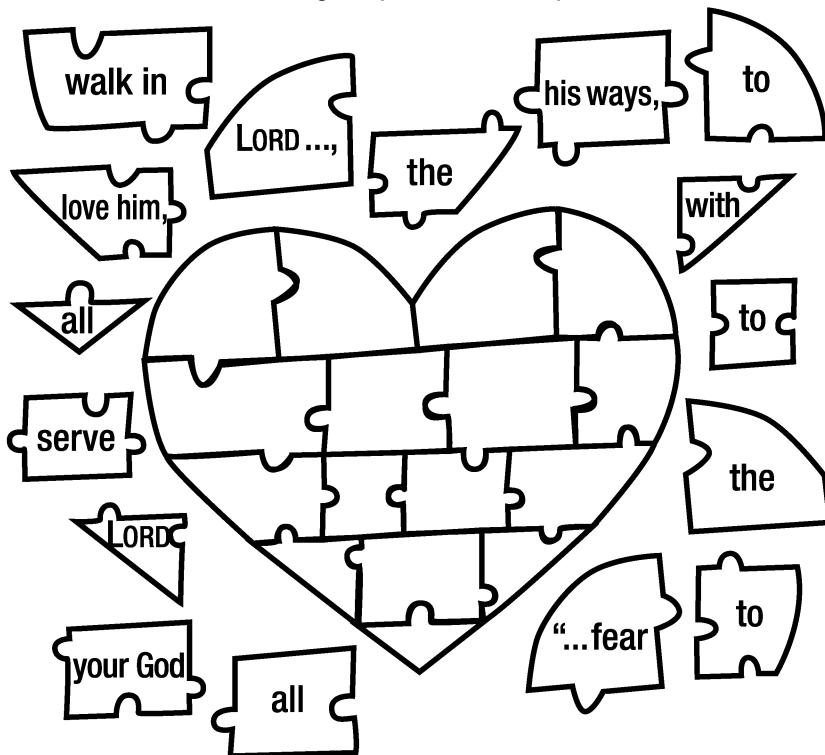
# Just for Kids



## Our first love

In Deuteronomy 10:12 (NIV), Israel is asked a question that's also for us to answer: "What does the LORD your God ask of you?"

To find the answer, write the words from the puzzle pieces on the matching shapes in the completed heart.



*... your heart and with all your soul ..."*

Answer: "... fear the LORD ... to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all ..."

## \* A JAR OF \* Love and Appreciation



Sometimes we forget to show love and appreciation to people who are closest to us. Use this fun craft to let everyone in your family know how much you care.

### What you need:

- Plastic jar with lid
- Heart-shaped foam pieces
- Heart-shaped stickers
- Glue
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Pencil or crayons

### What you do:

1. Decorate the jar and lid with heart-shaped foam pieces and stickers.
2. Cut out 2" or 3" heart shapes from the construction paper.
3. On each paper heart, write what you appreciate and love about your family and each member. Have all family members do this, too.
4. Place the heart messages inside the jar. Fold them in half, if necessary.
5. On each day in February, pull out one heart and read the message aloud to the family.
6. Notice the changes in your family when everyone feels loved and appreciated!