



Issue Forty

## e-News

Please join us  
Sunday, Sept. 7, 2008

"The Fellowship of the  
Lamb"  
by Pastor Chuck Holliday  
1 Corinthians 11:17-34

If you missed a sermon, click  
[here](#) to listen on-line or  
download to your iPod.

### Sunday Schedule

- 8:30 AM Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 AM Worship Service
- 10:30 AM Worship Service.
- Nursery for all services
- Children's Programs for Pre-K through 5th Grade during 9AM & 10:30 AM services

### YOUTH SCHEDULE

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL (OBX) YOUTH GROUP

Mon. 6:30-8:30pm  
Joey Redd  
[Joey@riverpca.org](mailto:Joey@riverpca.org)

#### HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Wed. 6:30-8:30pm  
Adam Young  
[Adam@riverpca.org](mailto:Adam@riverpca.org)

## Message from Russell

Last Sunday's message by Brandon Gantt talked about what it looks like to enjoy community together. He shared with us some powerful examples along with God's Word. If you missed this sermon you can listen to it by clicking on this [link](#).

Below is a letter to you and me from Doug Balch. This letter exemplifies the heart and soul of what we at River of Life (ROL) want our church to be. It really embodies how acting out our mission statement impacts people around us. Enjoy this letter. I certainly did!

*Russell*



Russell Bush  
Ministry Director

## Letter from Doug Balch

Dear River of Life family:

When our next door neighbors (Charles and Rhoda Gray) invited us to River of Life, we had just started "church shopping" and this was our first stop.

That first Sunday at River of Life, we were warmly and openly greeted into the fellowship. After the service, Linda and I were telephoned by Pastor Chuck Holiday, who spent an amazing amount of time talking to us and welcoming us to River of Life.

Weeks flew by and soon Linda and I felt that we should look into becoming members of River of Life. We chose to attend the home group for the introduction classes for membership.

This is when we discovered confirmations that the Lord had us in the right place. I found that Jim Nolan (the host home of the group) is a distant cousin, and Ron Balch (another member of the group) is also related.

All home groups are special and unique. Each of us become an important link in the Armor of that home group. You listen, encourage, discuss, teach and learn from each

Click [here](#) to read continuation of Doug's letter on page 4.

## Acting Out Our Mission Statement

In Russell Bush's article in the Aug. 28 e-News ([click here](#) to read entire article), he outlined ways in which we can act together to live out our mission statement, "Exalt Christ, Love People and Serve for God's Glory." They are:

- 1) Invite someone to church **THIS SUNDAY**, September 7th
- 2) Join a small/home group and
- 3) Serve for God's Glory on a ministry team, inside or outside the church; ways to explore this last item is by joining a home group starting September 21 and participating in the study called "Dignity Serves"

To join a home group, you can **sign-up** online at [www.riverpca.org](http://www.riverpca.org), send Russell an e-mail at [russell@riverpca.org](mailto:russell@riverpca.org) or call the office at 407/351-4333.



## HOME GROUP STUDY -DIGNITY SERVES PART TWO FUSION BY JENNIE HISSOM

The Dignity Serves curriculum was created to work in tandem with service participation. This fall at River of Life, Dignity Serves was timed to overlap with Fusion 2008 on October 3-5. Now in its second year, Fusion is an area-wide service weekend designed to mobilize the Orlando region's Christians, and connect them with area ministries in need of volunteers. This is a great chance for local ministries to gain exposure and attract workers. If you have or know of a service ministry that could benefit from Fusion participation, please contact [Russell Bush](#) or [Phil Hissom](#) to add a project to the Fusion weekend. This is also a perfect time for us as churchgoers to learn more about local efforts to love and serve others. Each **home group** participating in our church-wide study will sign up to participate as volunteers for a service project over Fusion weekend. This is a time when Christians with a heart for God's people can be connected to existing service work in their community, and to other people. You may learn that you are gifted and called to build God's kingdom in ways you hadn't imagined. For more information about Fusion, click [here](#).

Click on this [link](#) to read Part One of this article in last week's e-News.

## ROL VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT IS ON MELANIE MANNECK



Melanie with daughters  
Bianca and Lisa

For the past 3 years Melanie has taught, in a three month rotation, the preschool class for the 10.30 a.m. service. She also coordinated the teaching schedule and the class structures with the preschool teacher team and helped to find a good curriculum for this age group. Starting this Sunday Melanie will move to the pre-K and kindergarten class and teach there for the next couple of months.

We asked Melanie why she teaches in Kids Connection and what she hopes to accomplish. Here's what she said:

"I'm very excited to get to know the children even more now and to work hand in

hand with the parents. I started teaching Sunday school when I was 16 years old and I was a preschool and kindergarten teacher in Germany before I had my own children. Children are on my heart and I have a passion for helping them to get to know God and his love for them. Most of the time I taught children between 2 and 6 years of age. That's why the basics of Christianity are the foundation of my teaching: God loves me; God created me, my family and the world around me; God is always with me and He wants to be my friend forever."

We are very blessed to have wonderful Christians like Melanie teaching our children. Thank you Melanie!

*This seminar is designed to introduce you to the heart and ministry of River of Life.*

## INQUIRER'S CLASS

Led by Pastor Chuck Holliday, this weekend seminar is designed to introduce you to the heart and ministry of River of Life. Whether you are brand new to River of Life, considering membership, or somewhere in between, this class is for you! It is designed to help you get a good taste of what River of

Life is all about.

We will meet  
**Friday, September 19,  
6-9pm** (dinner provided)  
and  
**Saturday, September 20,  
9am-Noon** (breakfast provided.)

Child care is available upon request.

We would **love to have you join us** for this upcoming class! **Sign up on line by clicking [here](#)**, in the foyer after church, or by calling the church office at 407-351-4333.



## WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT

Begins Friday Evening, 10/10

Concludes Sunday Afternoon, 10/12

Cost per attendee is \$175.00, Includes: 2 nights, 2BR/ 2BA

4 Person Suite with four meals

Speaker: Angel Richards

Worship: Tammy Jensen

Deposit deadline: September 21, 2008

For more information contact: Patricia Schreckengost,

Phone: 407/ 704-0823, e-mail: [mymima124@gmail.com](mailto:mymima124@gmail.com)

**There is still space available.** Please respond by signing up in the church foyer after church on Sunday or on line by clicking [here](#).



## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

One of the most valued treasures we women have is friends. There is no better place to form and nurture those friendships than being a part of one of the studies that the Women's Ministry at ROL has planned for us. There are three women's studies planned for this Fall. Pick the one that fits your schedule and **sign up in the foyer after church on Sunday.** A workbook or book will need to be purchased for the study you attend.

### Women's Ministry Small Group

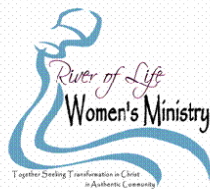
Debbie Holliday will be leading this small group study on Ruth.

- Where: Debbie's home  
Winter Garden, FL  
407-351-4333
- Start Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2008
- Time: 7:30pm - 9:30pm
- 10 sessions. We'll meet every other week.
- This class is limited to about 12 participants.

### Survey of the Gospel of John

Dorcas Cepeda will be leading this study.

- Where: ROL Church
- Start Date: Sunday, October 5, 2008
- Time: 9am
- 9 sessions We'll meet every Sunday except Oct. 12 (Women's Retreat.)

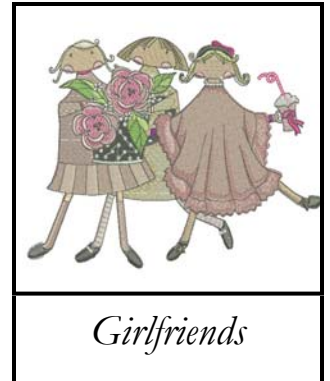


### Believing God, by Beth Moore

Darby Blanchard will be leading this study.

- Where: Darby's home  
Winter Garden, FL  
407-574-2763
- Start Date: Wed. September 24, 2008
- Time: 10am-12noon
- 10 week study. We'll meet every other week unless we decide to meet weekly after our first meeting.

Childcare will be provided.



## LATEST CHAPTER TWO CAMPAIGN UPDATE

**New**  
*Update on the  
 Chapter Two  
 Campaign from  
 Blaine Strickland*

The Chapter Two campaign, having been launched at the beginning of the summer, has made significant progress since it was first announced. We have now collected more than \$90,000 in our quest to collect \$200,000 by the end of 2008. More importantly, we have total pledges of \$140,000. At this juncture, there are two important questions for each of us to answer:

- 1.) Have we contributed? (only about half of our ROL families have made a pledge)
- 2.) When can we turn our pledge into cash? (making good on

our pledges is very important)

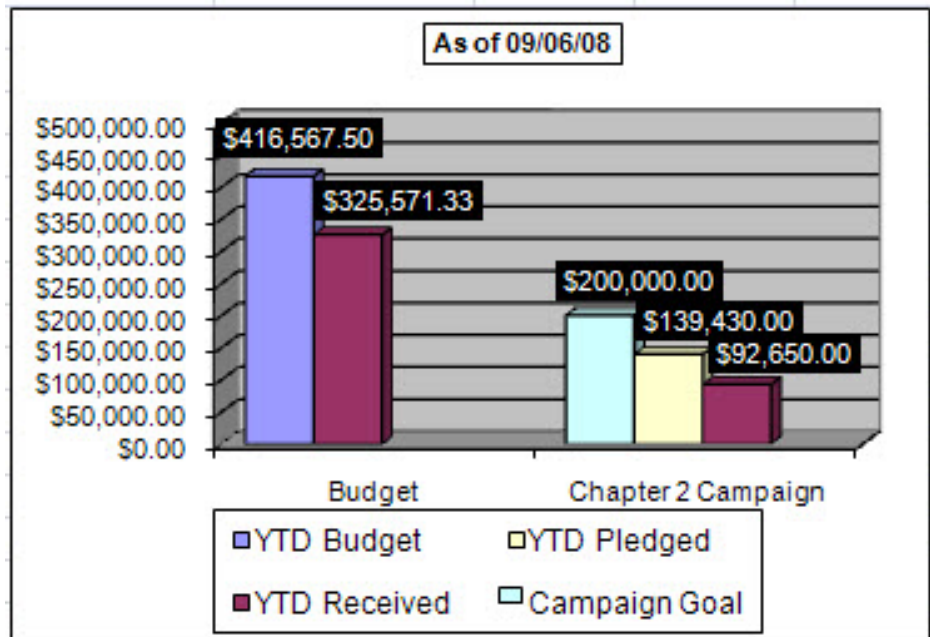
Although you have not heard much about the campaign over the summer, there has been a lot of activity behind the scenes. You will be hearing more about the campaign and the search to find and employ an Executive Director in the coming weeks. Several candidates for the position have emerged and are being screened by the hiring team. This team would like to move quickly to secure the candidate, once chosen. As a result, it is imperative that we all support the campaign so that we can hire our

new director by the end of the year. If you have not made a pledge, would you prayerfully consider this question? If you have made a pledge, can you fulfill that pledge as soon as possible?

Thank you for your support. The Director is a crucial part of our strategic plan as we implement our mission at River of Life: Exalt Christ, love people and serve for God's glory.

*For more information about the Chapter Two Campaign, please click on this link to see the [Chapter Two details](#).*

*Financial  
 Report*



## CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1 LETTER FROM DOUG BALCH

other in a home group and soon become bonded together through the close fellowship. You have the interaction of “give and take” that is not a typical part of a worship service. In a home group, you have a smaller branch of the family of God that you can share in a personal and interpersonal way. A home group is a vital part of the social and interactive church life. This became vitally clear in a very personal way when my wife Linda fell desperately ill.

Linda had what we thought was a flu that was not going away. The Doctor told us to get her to a hospital right away. She lay in her hospital bed for two weeks, and the home group was there from the start. Pastor Chuck and each member of the group would show up bringing their gifts of love, fellowship, prayers and helps. When the Doctors did all they could do and were predicting the worse, home group was there lifting Linda up with friendship, prayers and love; I was also encouraged, knowing I was not alone.

I can not imagine what the ordeal would have been like without the close family of God surrounding us, shrouding us in Christian love. Our home group blessed us in washing Linda's hair, shuffling cars and so many small and meaningful ways that I am sure I can not remember them all. When treatment did not appear to be working, Pastor Chuck asked the entire congregation to pray for us in a Sunday service. I could not believe the comfort I felt in knowing the local body of Christ was interceding for us. Linda immediately turned a corner for the better. Even her attending physician said, “I think God had something to do with this one.” All the time our home group continued to bless us with gifts of love, in time spent with us and wonderful acts of kindness.

Being part of a home group, or a church for that matter, is a simple thing to do. But being an ACTIVE part of the body is what Christ wants for us. “Love one another, as I love you.”

Love is verb (an action word) and Christ spoke of love throughout the scripture. You may reluctantly go to a home group thinking, “I have nothing in common with these guys”. Linda and I had nothing in common with our home group when we first chose to attend, but we soon discovered a few unknown “cousins” and I am happy to say that we have been bonded and blessed with friends that we know are our brothers and sisters through Christ Jesus.

We are all missionaries, bringing the message of Christ to the world, but why not start at home by inviting a friend or neighbor to Church or a home group, or even finding a home group for yourself. You may discover that you are uplifted and blessed by blessing others (and not even know that you are doing it at the time.) You never know what enormous blessings your small faithfulness will bring to others and yourself.

God loves you and so do we,  
Doug and Linda Balch



Encourage  
one another  
and build up  
each other...

Thessalonians 5:11, NRSV

New Home Groups are starting the week of September 21. Join a Home Group by signing-up online at [www.riverpca.org](http://www.riverpca.org), by sending Russell an e-mail to [russell@riverpca.org](mailto:russell@riverpca.org) or by calling the office at 407/351-4333.



Home Groups