

Spring 2014

SRC STUDENT

NEWS



TAKING JESUS OUTSIDE THE WALLS OF THE CHURCH

As I was compiling this edition of the SRC Student News, a theme began to emerge. There is tension that we are called to live in as Christians. The tension is between gathering and dispersing; coming and going; receiving and giving. We must live in a balance between these two expressions. A body of water that has water coming into it but not flowing out of it becomes stagnate and unhealthy. A body of water that only flows out but has nothing coming into it will eventually dry up and die. We need both.

We are seeking to build a **healthy** student ministry. A healthy ministry means that we have programs and events designed for comfort and connectedness - times when we come together to learn and share and grow. It also means that we have opportunities to be made uncomfortable and become disconnected (we move away from each other for a time) so that we can focus on reaching out to others who are in need and not connected. Our goal should not simply be to be happy and comfortable, but also to serve and bring others into contact with Jesus as we stretch out to reach them with His love.

I recently read a book that really rocked me. In the book was the following statement. I encourage you to read it, and re-read it slowly. Think about what the author is saying. See if it doesn't challenge you.

"Jesus' compassion is characterized by a downward pull. That is what disturbs us. We cannot even think of ourselves in terms other than those of an upward pull, an upward mobility in which we strive for better lives, higher salaries, and more prestigious positions. Thus, we are deeply disturbed by a God who embodies a downward movement. Instead of striving for a higher position, more power, and more influence, Jesus moves, as Karl Barth says, from 'the heights to the depth, from victory to defeat, from riches to poverty, from

triumph to suffering, from life to death.' Jesus' whole life and mission involve accepting powerlessness and revealing in this powerlessness the limitlessness of God's love. Here we see what compassion means.

It is not a bending toward the underprivileged from a privileged position; it is not reaching out from on high to those who are less fortunate below; it is not a gesture of sympathy or pity for those who fail to make it in the upward pull. On the contrary, *compassion means* going directly to those people and places where suffering is most acute and building a home there. God's compassion is total, absolute, unconditional without reservation. **It is the compassion of the one who keeps going to the most forgotten corners of the world, and who cannot rest as long as there are still human beings with tears in their eyes.**" (Nouwen, Henri, *Compassion*, pp. 24-25).

Let's take time to be together to learn and encourage one another. But let's not lose sight of the fact that people need Jesus, and we are the ones who need to take His message of love and hope to them. Our GATHERINGS should always be stretching us to GO out and reach more people.

- Pastor Kevin Mahaffy



MEET A VOLUNTEER



Meet **Rachel Tanas**, one of our Awesome SRC Student Ministries Adult Youth Workers.

Family: Sam and Miranda Tanas (parents), Rebekah Tanas (sister).

Where do you work/go to school & what do you do? Sophomore at New York Institute of Technology (NYIT).

Favorite TV show/movie: Downtown Abbey.

Hobby/Leisure Activity: Reading, baking, and hanging out with friends.

How long at SRC? Almost 10 years.

Favorite Bible verse: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland" (Isaiah 43:19).

Coollest place you've ever been: Missions trip to Northern Ireland.

What do you enjoy about working with students? I know it's hard being a Christian teenager on Long Island, so I just enjoy getting to not only have fun, but also to be a listening ear and a source of encouragement. I love getting to see God work in and through students and to see how He can make things that seem impossible, possible.

LOVE LONG ISLAND

Sleeping in, playing video games, perhaps going on a family vacation. These are things you expect to hear Jr. High and Sr. High students doing during their school breaks. But for the second year in a row, students from Shelter Rock Church did the unexpected. They used their break to get out and serve their community for **Love Long Island**. Last year we worked to establish Shelter Rock Church's food pantry at the EOC in Manhasset, prepared food for distribution to the needy with an organization in Farmingdale, and helped distribute food to those in need in Bellport.

This year we worked with Lighthouse Mission, sorting clothes and food donations in the warehouse, then loading 2 food trucks, and giving the food to about 200 people in Lake Ronkonkoma and Coram. Our students served outside with smiles on their faces for over an hour, despite the freezing cold temperatures, motivated and humbled by the reality that the people they were serving had waited in line long before they arrived, just to get some food and perhaps find some clothes that fit them. We met people who were just trying to keep the power and heat on in their homes, and others who had no homes at all. We were able to offer prayer and encouragement to folks as they waited in line.

CAMPUS IMPACT

Each week SRC students gather with other students on their school campuses for Christian Club to discuss and spread the love of Jesus in a friendly and safe environment with their classmates. The clubs are student-led, and most of the clubs work closely with Long Island Youth For Christ (www.liyfc.org).



We also went to the Belmont Racetrack and worked with the Racetrack Chaplaincy to host a carnival and dinner for the racetrack workers, running games, handing out prizes, and serving dinner to the 60+ people who show up. Providing these hard-working folks – most of whom are separated from their families – with a brief time of fun and bringing smiles to their faces through simple kindness was a tremendous joy and privilege. We are proud of everyone who used their time to give and serve others.

Clubs operates during the same times and have the same privileges as any other club on campus. Their desire is to **strengthen** one another as believers in Christ, **study** the Bible and discuss how to apply it to their lives, **share** the life-changing message of Jesus Christ with their schools, and to **serve** the school and community as the hands and feet of Jesus. **If your school does not have a club, contact us and we will help you start one!**

Below: Rebekah Tanas leads games at Syosset HS Club; **Rebecca Dominguez** and the Herricks HS Club leaders; **Claudia Mahaffy** speaking at Roslyn HS Club.



“Spring Cleaning” by Dr. Jim Burns

Ah, it’s spring again! Time to throw open the windows, take down the shutters, put away your winter wardrobe, and do a little spring cleaning. There’s something about spring that just makes you want to shake out the rugs and sweep out the garage.

Spiritually, we sometimes need a little spring cleaning as well — a readjustment that guarantees that our priorities are right. To start, I challenge you to honestly answer the questions below to see if there’s work to be done in your life.

I love the story of the first grader who had noticed that her father had been bringing home more and more work from the office each night. When she asked her mother why, her mother explained, “Daddy has so much work to do that he can’t get it all done at the office.” “Well then,” the girl innocently wondered, “why don’t they put him in a slower group?”

You know, maybe that’s not such a bad idea. As the pace of life gets more hectic and unhealthy, perhaps the solution is to join a “slower group.” Often we live at a breathless pace that creates stress, fractures family relationships, and squeezes God out of our daily lives. If you work hard and play hard, you’ll probably crash hard. Now may be the time to take one giant step backward.

Take a few moments to evaluate your spiritual, emotional, financial, and relational priorities. Perhaps like me, your life is ready for some spring cleaning of the heart.




Clean Sweep Checklist

Think through the following questions. Your answers will quickly reveal if some priorities need to be readjusted.

- When was the last time you made a new friend?
- How often do you and your spouse go out on a date?
- Do you get enough sleep at night?
- Do you have credit problems or carry too much debt?

- Are your children showing signs of stress?
- When was the last time you really laughed out loud?
- When was the last time you took time out to do something fun with your whole family?
- Has your faith become mechanical and detached from life?
- Is your job strengthening or strangling you?
- Have you eaten your vegetables today? Really?

Source: <http://homeword.com/articles/spring-cleaning/?cat=families>



Parenting Seminar

with Duffy Robbins

One of the most common problems we face in our families is the business and pace of daily living: work responsibilities, school, sports, church, family relationships, we all know the drill. There's not much time to think about direction when we're all traveling at the speed of life. This seminar will give us an opportunity to pull over and look at the map, to regain a sense of perspective and direction. What are our goals as a family? And, in the midst of the busy-ness and the dizziness of our children's teenage years, can we settle on some basic priorities as a family?


“Building Families that Build Healthy People”

Sunday, April 6, 2014, 6-8pm - The Green Vale School 250 Valentines Ln. Old Brookville, NY 11545

PLUS

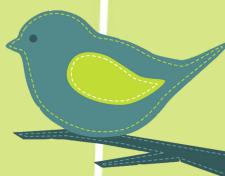
Separate Activities for Students 7th-12th Grades

Duffy Robbins is in constant demand as a speaker around the world. He is the Professor of Youth Ministry at Eastern University in Pennsylvania and has authored more than 15 books and hundreds of articles.





Spring 2014



APRIL 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday a.m. Missions Mtg. Sunday p.m. Parent Seminar	2	3 Delta	4 Delta	5 hrt <3 manUP 7-9pm	6 Flagjack Fundraiser 8-10am	7
8 Sunday a.m. Adult Leader Lunch	9	10 Delta	11 Delta	12	13	14
15 Easter	16	17 Parent Meetings	18 Parent Meetings	19 H2O 7-9pm	20	21
22 Sunday a.m. Student Leader Lunch	23	24 Delta	25	26	27	28

Sunday Mornings
10:30am Manhasset
11:15am Syosset

Sunday Night Youth
6-8pm

JUNE 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday a.m. Senior Night	2	3 Senior Dinner	4	5 hrt <3 & manUP 7-9pm	6 Missions Practice 10am-1pm	7
8 Sunday a.m.	9	10	11	12	13 Bridge Dad-Kids Fun Night	14
15 Father's Day	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Missions Practice 4-6pm Adult Leader Dinner	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Sunday a.m.	30					



shelterrockchurch.
com/students



MAY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday a.m. Sunday p.m.	2	3 Delta	4 Delta	5 hrt <3 & manUP 7-9pm	6	7
8 Mother's Day	9	10 Delta	11 Delta	12	13 Missions Practice 10am-1pm	14
15 Sunday a.m. Adult Leader Lunch	16	17 Delta End of Year Party	18 Delta	19 Bridge Mom-Kids Fun Night	20 H2O 7-9pm	21
22 Sunday a.m.	23	24	25	26	27	28



7:30-9pm in Homes



Send us your Schedules!



Sports, Concerts, Plays, etc. We would love to come support you! kevin@shelterrockchurch.com

Jr. High Students Visiting Garrett who was in hospital.



Prayer Requests

How can we pray for you? Send your prayer requests & praise reports to: kevin@shelterrockchurch.com

hrt <3 Tea Party



Jr. High Pizza Party



Submissions

We want to share your stories, art, poems, devotional thoughts... here in the Newsletter. e-mail submissions to: kevin@shelterrockchurch.com



Pastor Kevin, Rebecca & Rachel Dominguez, Cynthia & Frank Scarola. Others who ran from SRC Student Ministries: Zach Fu, Ben & Kate Morse, Peter Gong. Congratulations to all! Shelter Rock raised over \$58,000 to build wells in Africa!

MIKE'S MINUTE

Last week Pastor Kevin, Ren, and I had the chance to do an interview with Pastor Reggie Stutzman in the Bronx for Pastor Kevin's message on Praying BIG prayers. I've had the chance to do two outreaches with Pastor Reggie - one in 7th grade, and another in 10th grade. Pastor Reggie is in the process of trying to purchase a closed down strip club and turn it into a house of worship. He's praying for God to do BIG things, and is willing to play his part, just like Joshua in the Bible.

It is so important that we don't just ask God to do things in our lives and expect Him to do all the work while we sit back. Our relationship with God is a partnership, He wants to do great things which will not happen without us working with His help and having Him on our side.

-Michael Fenimore



REN'S RAP

"A lot can happen in a New York minute." You never know what the next hour or minute holds for you. James, the brother of Jesus, said, "[Life is] just a vapor" (James 4:14). Everyone is created to live a full, meaningful life - meaning nobody is created to just do nothing or just go through the daily routines of life without purpose. We are created to live life in a unique, different, and exciting way.

In his song "You Can't Stop Me" Christian hip hop artist Andy Mineo sings, "I got two choices ... make moves or make excuses." Finding your purpose and identity comes with making choices. You can choose to live your life with purpose by praying to God, focusing on Him and obeying to His first command: "Love the Lord your God with all of your heart, mind, soul and spirit" (Matthew 22:37). By helping others, listening to others, and being with others you can obey the second part of Jesus' command: "Love one another as yourself" (Matthew 22:39).

This reminds me of my co-worker who was involved in a very bad car accident in which her car tumbled over three times and off the highway after another driver switched into her lane without looking. She was unconscious and in the ER for several days. After hearing the full story and seeing pictures of her car, it was clear that she should have been dead. The thought of not seeing a great friend and co-worker anymore scared me and shook me. It made me realize that the people I am close with and the people that I interact with are vital, and I am called to show them the love of Christ at every opportunity. Learn to love God and let His love flow out of you. You only have one life to live, so choose wisely. Live your life with purpose and leave a positive, godly legacy for others to follow.

- Ren Jainarine

PK'S PIECE

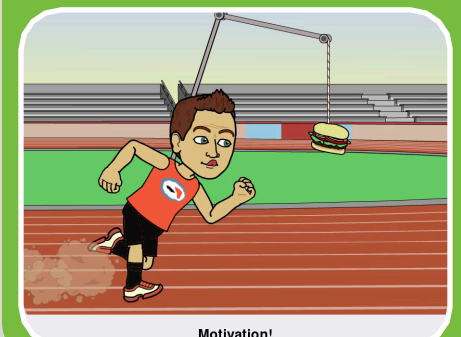
It was the toughest physical challenge I have ever taken on. Running 13.1 miles - a half-marathon - with Shelter Rock Church on Team World Vision.

Although windy, the weather on the day of the race was decent. Before the race I stretched and mingled with our team. I was excited and focused. Then the horn sounded and the race began. I joined a herd of thousands of people with the immediate objective of not tripping on anyone else's feet. As the race moved along, I was maintaining a good pace and was hopeful that I would finish in a good time [for me].

At mile 10, however, I made a mistake. I decided to stretch, and my hamstring instantly cramped up. The last three miles were really tough. Even though I had to walk occasionally to alleviate the cramping, I was not going to quit, and I did indeed finish.

What caused me to press on in spite of the pain? I was thinking about the reason I was running. All of hard work I had put in, all of the funds I had raised, and the pain I was overcoming, was for a purpose: Funding wells that would provide people in Africa with clean water - a life-changing, life-saving thing.

In life we must run with a vision - something that will motivate us to press through difficulties. In Philippians 3:12-14, Paul says, "Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Get ahold of God's vision for your life and run passionately after Jesus today.



DEVOTIONAL

by
Volunteer
MaryAnn
Dantona

Recently, while completing a homework assignment, I was asked to give my view of morality as I apply it in my Christian life. It

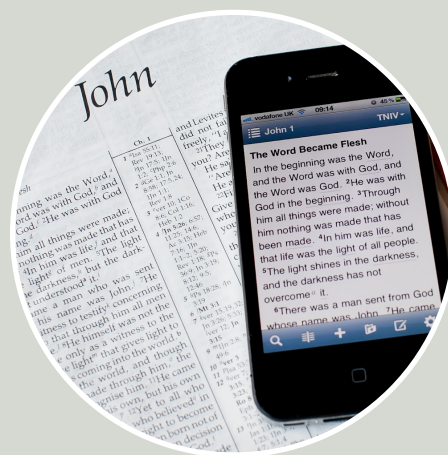
occurred to me how different I would define morality before I knew Jesus. Morality as described in the dictionary is “principles concerning the distinction between right and wrong or good and bad behavior.” Before I knew who I was to God and decided to live for Him, I thought I was a moral and “good” person.

I was a teen at Syosset High School in the 1970’s - a time when not much emphasis was given to morality. It was expected for teens to rebel, curse, get drunk or high and lose their virginity by the time they graduated high school.

When I made a decision to follow Jesus, I began to see in the Bible that all of those behaviors were contrary to what God wanted for me. My understanding of right and wrong became vastly different. I began to see Scripture, not as a list of do’s and don’ts but as clear guidelines to live my life as God intended me to so I could receive His protection and blessing. The more I learned about Jesus and the life that He wanted for me the further I moved away from destructive choices.

I began to see Scripture, not as a list of do’s and don’ts but as clear guidelines to live my life as God intended me to ...

As a youth leader, I know that many students face the same decisions now, except, with technology we need to add choices such as internet porn and sexting to the list. If you are making choices that do not line up to what you are learning in the Bible you may still be described as a “good person”. But ask yourself the



same question that I had to ask myself: Is it OK just to be a good person or do I need to honor God with my choices as I follow the example of Jesus?

“Be holy for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:15-16).



SHELTER ROCK CHURCH STUDENT MINISTRIES

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