

A Letter to The Ministry Partners of

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Julie's Story

My name is Julie and I just recently started attending The Regeneration Center a few months ago. Before I started attending TRC, I was addicted to drugs and really struggling with life in general. I was hopeless for the future and full of pain. I thought the Lord could never love someone like me because of all the things I had done in the past. I heard about the classes taught here from a

friend and decided to give it a try thinking it would at least get me out of the house for awhile. However, I never expected that they would change my life in so many ways. I have found a new freedom in Christ from the bondage of my past. I have learned to forgive others as the Lord has so graciously forgiven me and it has given me such an amazing sense of peace. I have been truly

blessed by what God is doing through the teachers at TRC. I have discovered past hurts that I was still holding onto and have found freedom in learning to let them go. I am now a new creation in Christ and no longer live for the flesh. I have made friends in Christ that I love dearly and am proud to call my brothers and sisters. I have learned to trust people again and that there really are good people
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Announcements

Mark your calendars now for The Regeneration Center's **12th Annual Banquet** Friday, October 7th @ 6:00 PM, Holiday Inn, Alexandria. Join us for dinner, testimonies, music and celebra-

tion of 29 years of ministry. Watch for our next newsletter for more information or visit our website at **www.Regeneration Center.org**. for future updates on the banquet.

Betty Coleman's New Address:

**415 Unumb St., Apt. #103
Alexandria, MN 56308
Tel: (320) 762-8788**

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Counting the Stars



In 128 B.C. Hipparchus counted the stars and declared there were 1,026. In 1600 A.D. Kepler, thinking that Hipparchus had double

counted some stars, counted them again. He came up with 1,005. Today we are told that there are actually more stars in the universe than there are grains of sand in all the deserts and all the beaches put together! (Information from The Truth Project, from Simon Driver, *The Revelation of God in Nature*.)

I have dedicated much of my

life to "counting the stars" – to study, to getting smart, to refining beliefs, to sharpening my arguments. I wanted to be right, to be doctrinally correct. I wanted to attend the right church and to know the truth about predestination, baptism, church order, spiritual gifts, Bible versions, church music, and end times. And I have argued with those who

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Julie's Story

(Continued from page 1)

out there. People who I can be open and honest with and who will still love me for the real me and not just the person I used to show to the world. TRC has helped, with the grace of God, to mold me into the person I am today and I absolutely love the person I am today. Thank you so much for all you have done to make TRC into what it has become.

*I am amazed
at the creative
ways God
allows for us to
plant seeds and
the way He
lovingly
prepares the
kids' soil.*

*God Bless!
-Julie-*

*The Regeneration
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with the grace of
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Community Kids Corner



Hello everyone! I haven't written for awhile, so I will try my best to give a good summary without using too much ink. We are preparing to celebrate the end of our third school year as Community Kids! I can't believe that we have been together for so long already. And yet, I shouldn't be surprised because time flies when you're

having fun and we sure know how to have fun!

During the winter we had a Christmas party, snow fort day, lots of hot chocolate and even indoor bowling! This spring the kids have been anxious to be back outside shooting hoops, blowing bubbles, drawing chalk pictures and playing "What time is it Mr. Fox?". When I am "Mr. Fox", I never catch the chickens...they are way too fast! This summer we will be having three special events in conjunction with the children's ministry from New Testament Church. We will have field trips to Holmes City Berries, Carlos State Park and a biking/beach day. We are excited about this new partnership. Soon, we will be heading out to Dave's farm to get a little dirty doing some planting.

On Thursdays we have added a Bible study time at the request of the teenagers! What a blessing and privilege it is to be sharing the Truth together. As each week goes by, I am amazed at the creative ways God allows for us to plant seeds and the way He lovingly prepares the kids' soil. We have no idea when and how the harvest will come, but we find true joy in the planting season. I want to thank Lissy Waage, Adele Bjorklund and Bekah Lotti for their hours of devotion to the kids and for their endless (necessary!) patience with me. Their beautiful, Christ-reflective spirits are what the kids (and me) keep coming back to each week. Thank you ladies! I love and appreciate each of you.

-Rita Lotti-

Announcements



There is a need for used cars. If you would like to donate a vehicle to The Regeneration Center, we will give you a tax deductible receipt so you can claim the gift on your taxes. Call Dave Schonberg at 320-815-3590 for more details.

6th Ave. Community Center has a new Facilities Manager, Robyn Wray. Robyn will be taking over Jean Schonberg's position. Jean will continue to be involved with the center as Kitchen Manager in charge of Friday night dinners. Please stop by to meet Robyn and visit the facility at 1615 6th Ave. E.



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Counting the Stars

(Continued from page 1)
counted the stars differently.

There came a time in my life, however, when I began to doubt some of the beliefs I had been taught. Red flags went up here and there. Pretty soon I wasn't sure what to believe. Was there even a God? It was a very frightening time for me.

Many young people today who have grown up in the church are going through this same frightening experience. When they were little, they believed their parents and their Sunday school teachers. But now they have encountered different teachers. They no longer know what to believe, or even if they can believe anything at all. Some use this uncertainty as an excuse to abandon their faith and to dive into a sinful lifestyle. But others are hurting and lost just like I was. They love God and they love their church, but they are disillusioned. The church experience no longer satisfies them. And

so they leave, not because they are rebelling against God, but because they perceive church as an exercise in counting the stars.

I love to study. I love good discussions about doctrinal issues. I want to be as smart as I can be. But now my main delight has shifted from counting the stars to enjoying the view. Count the stars if you wish. Be as accurate as you can, but if you lose your spot, if you get confused and frustrated, come back to the big picture: The stars are real. The night sky is big and beautiful. If you want a real view, go to where it is especially dark.

Many of my friends are in jail. Alcohol, drugs, suicide, drama and chaos are very familiar to me. The darkness is real. And yet it is in this darkness that the simple Bible message shines out so beautifully: There is a God. He made people with true greatness. We have all sinned, breaking off the friendship and alienating us from our Maker. In spite of sin and rebellion, our

Creator still loves us, and in the person of Jesus He died to pay for all our bad deeds so that He could honorably forgive repentant sinners and reconcile them back to Himself.

As the darkness of our world deepens, help your children and grandchildren to understand the strength and beauty of the big picture. Prepare them for the time when they encounter people who count the stars differently. Plant the suspicion in their minds that the wonderful message about God may be far bigger than anyone has ever imagined.

-Dave Schonberg-

*It is in the
darkness that
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There is a God.*

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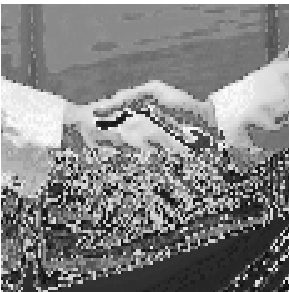
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A Helping Hand



When you give to The Regeneration Center, you support ministry to individuals and their families in the Alexandria area and statewide. You can lend a helping hand to someone in need that you may not otherwise have the opportunity or ability to reach on your own. We minister to participants in our Life Skills classes, many others through Betty's ministry appointments, the Community Kids program and our newest ministry, Villard Cornerstone.

We receive no government money or foundation grants. Gifts from you enable us to offer these resources to the people who need them. If you have a heart to give, please consider joining with us and taking this opportunity to lend a helping hand.

You can donate online at www.RegenerationCenter.org by clicking the DONATE NOW button on our homepage or you can mail a donation to The Regeneration Center, PO Box 1196, Alexandria, MN, 56308.