



ALLIANCE WOMEN MINISTRIES of the SOUTHERN DISTRICT February, '06



"I have come so that they may have life, and have it more abundantly." Jn. 10:10

Do you really believe that? Some things seem impossible when we look at situations through our earthly, clouded eyes. Is this verse just meant for some, and not for others?

After "Katrina" first hit, my husband and I knew we wanted to help in some way. We heard about a class for those who wanted to volunteer at the Red Cross Shelter set up here in Franklin. We did that, and worked for about 6 weeks at the shelter, meeting many wonderful people each of whom had a tragic story to tell. But that was many months ago.

Last week, we had the privilege of hauling a beautiful 32-foot 5th Wheel camper down to Baton Rouge. Someone from Clay, AL had donated it to be used in the work of the restoration that our churches are doing in the devastation that was the New Orleans area. We left the camper off at All Nations, the Alliance community/worship center in Baton Rouge. It will provide a place for Frank Smith to stay while he's there, as Director of Gulf Coast Ministries, as well as for other volunteers as they help Randy Knighten to continue the work of aiding the evacuees to find housing, jobs, teaching job skills, etc. Baton Rouge burgeoned from a city of 600,000, pre-Katrina, to over one million people almost overnight. That means that about 40% of the people in that city have lost everything, have no jobs, and are living in "FEMA Cities", or trailer communities with literally hundreds or thousands of identical white trailers in a fenced area. There are two of these FEMA cities close to our center. We had a lovely visit with Randy, his wife Maya and precious toddler, Kaleb. God is using this family to add "living color" to countless displaced peoples. After leaving Baton Rouge we traveled back along the coast, and saw mile after mile of ruined, uninhabitable neighborhoods, possibly the very places the folks in Baton Rouge had fled. What struck us the most was that even now, SIX months later, there is still so much havoc, tangled forests, fishing trawlers on the roadsides, missing bridges, 6 - lane boulevards with no working stop lights for miles, trees on top of houses, etc. And we didn't see the worst of it. Here in TN we don't even hear about this anymore. This is an ONGOING tragedy!

Our first reaction was wishing we didn't have to go to work on Monday so we could stay and bunk in the volunteer room at Christian Life Church and Partners (the Waveland "Camp Katrina") and join the volunteers there for a week. But since we couldn't do that, our next thought was we needed to get out of there and go home! It was depressing. How do people cope with such desolation, without the Hope that only our Lord Jesus provides for his children? I ask that you all continue to keep the victims of Katrina in your prayers. And pray for Randy and Maya, as well as Willie and Dawn Neudahl at New Hope in New Orleans, and Don and Marlen Young and the people of the Genesis Church in Foley, AL, who are spearheading the work in Waveland, MS. The task is so great; they need a double portion of courage and stamina from the Holy Spirit. They also need FUNDS and VOLUNTEERS. See the Volunteer brochure enclosed with this mailing. What can YOU do to be God's hands and voice to repaint the Gulf Coast in God's glorious abundant living color.

Marilyn Ruup, Director



A GLANCE AT THE CALENDAR:

April 3-6, 2006 ~ District Prayer Conference, Chattanooga, TN

April 4th, Tuesday, 12 noon, Annual Rally and Luncheon at Chattanooga

April 16th ~ Easter

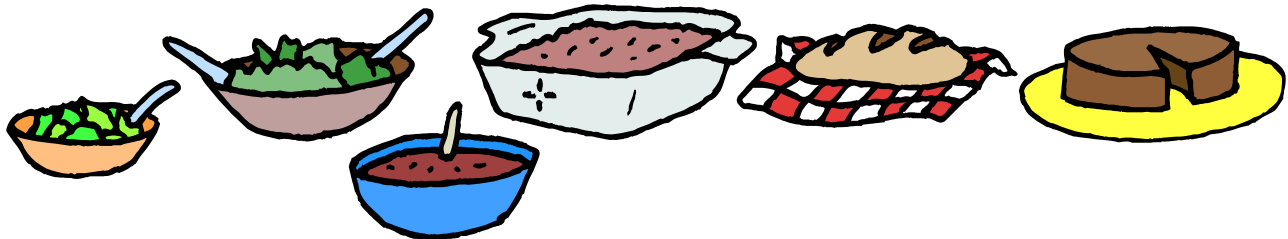
April 28-30 ~ Spring Retreat at Ridgecrest in NC

May 14th ~ Mother's Day

And.. Looking Way ahead

Celebrate 2008





January 17 - 20, 2008, at the beautiful new Marriott in Louisville, KY.



LUNCHEON INFO

Our Annual Rally and Luncheon will be held during the District Prayer Conference, which will be April 3 - 5, 2006 at Chattanooga. The luncheon will be held at North River Alliance Church. See the enclosed flyer and sign up sheet for this event. We will need your registrations in by March 19th.

We will be having elections this year for four officers. Our nominating committee met in January, and has nominated the following people. This will be considered the first reading of the nominations:

-  For the office of Secretary ~ Mrs. Marilyn Martin (reelection)
-  For the office of Treasurer ~ Mrs. Edie Tubbs
-  For the office of Member at Large ~ Mrs. Lucy Wilkey (reelection)
-  For the office of Member at Large ~ Mrs. Carol Hall (reelection)

Nominations will also be taken from the floor, **BUT YOU MUST HAVE THE PERSON'S PRIOR PERMISSION.** Please be in prayer for this election, and also for the election of the new District Director which will be done by the Prayer Conference. We want only those whom God has chosen to be working with our Alliance Women Ministries.

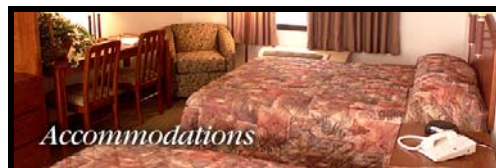
RETREAT INFO

By now you should have received the packet of Retreat information that was sent to you from the South Atlantic district. It included a beautiful poster with Terry Newman's picture, as well as the registration sheet and bulletin inserts to copy. If any of you have not yet received this, first check with your church secretary, since just one packet was sent to each church. If you can't locate it, CALL ME at 1-615-591-8945, or email me at daremare@juno.com. and I'll make sure you get one.

- **ANNOUNCEMENT: THERE IS A PRICE BREAK FOR YOUNGER GIRLS!!**

If you have a daughter age 6 - 11 whom you would like to bring, you just have to pay an extra \$25.20 (this price was quoted approximately). She would sleep in your bed with you, and you would be paying the room rate according to how many other people would be in that room. For example, if 2 other ladies shared the other bed, all 3 ladies would pay the 3/Rm rate of \$120, plus the young girl would pay \$25.20. If you want more information on this, please contact me at the above number, or call Ridgecrest Reservations at 828 669-8022.

- **WHAT TO BRING** You will NOT need to bring your bedding to Ridgecrest!! Do bring casual clothes - jeans, shorts, etc. A light jacket is good. If you want to walk the GORGEOUS mountain trails, bring your walking shoes. Saturday afternoon is FREE, so you can avail yourself of the many amenities that are found at this wonderful place. ALL ROOMS are in hotel-like buildings, and all walkways are COVERED. There is a bookstore, so bring money if you want to shop.



- **NAMETAGS** As the cover letter from Sanna Gailer says in the retreat packet, each group will be making their own nametags. The emphasis should be on the person's first name. Let's see how creative we can be. We'd like for those of us from the Southern District to ALSO INCLUDE the words "SOUTHERN DISTRICT" on your nametag. We are working on another way to I.D. us Southern District ladies as well - to be announced when you arrive.

- **MARCH OFFERING** will go towards sleeping bags for the Dakar Dorms.

- Please contact you Area Director for transportation information.