

THE CONTACT

aflc youth worker's newsletter

spring 2009



the
heart
of the
issue

tc

a letter from the father

by Vika Chinyaeva

Who is a teen?

I gave you life, you have it now;
But answer just one question: how
Can you forget just one more
thing?!

Beloved, do you want to know
That life for him is like a foe?!
He wants to die, he wants to see:
“Is there better part of me?
What is the life? What is the soul?
Why does my life look like a hole?
What’s in the end? Why does the
wind blow?”

Who is that creature?

What?! To love. His name is
TEEN!

That is the thing he wants to
know.
He wants some love, some light,
some hope,
He wants to be, to feel, to flow...
Flow to the direction, world has
shown
His life, his being is hurting
SHOW!!!

Whose eyes are happy,
full of future?

Who is a teen?

Whose mind is clear, full of
thought,

Who is that creature?

Who knows the way when
he is lost?

Whose eyes are happy,
full of future?

Who gets up early in the morn-
ing

Whose mind is clear, full of
thought,

To say to God:

“Oh, You are Holy!”?

Who knows the way when
he is lost?

Who goes to school to meet
his friends,

Who gets up early in the morning
To say to God:

Whose soul is joyful, full of rest?

“Oh, You are Holy!”?

My friends, I, having come to
earth,

Who goes to school to meet
his friends,

Had just one goal—for you to
serve...

Whose soul is joyful, full of rest?

MY
NATION,
PEOPLE,
CHILD,
MAN!

I looked at you, just in your
eyes,

NO!!! LISTEN!!!

Could see much pain, not once,
not twice.

I lived for him, I died for him;
I resurrected: can you see???

Beloved, did you want to
breathe?

I loved, I love and I will love

Beloved, did you want to see?

He should have hope!

Beloved, did you want to kneel

More than enough!

Down, to the cross, to start to
feel...?

For you I suffered, Holy Lamb!!!
Now you go, suffer, live and love
Have that compassion!
Beg you: HAVE! ✠

*Chinyaeva is an international student
from Russia, at the Association Free
Lutheran Bible School, Plymouth, MN*





Worship is Relationships




Youth Worker's Retreat 2010

January 22-24th



With Dave and Rennie Garda

 \$79 early-bird rate when you register by January 7, 2010. See web site youth.aflc.org for more details. 



intimacy

by Brian Ricke

Recently I have become more and more aggravated by the way our culture has stolen certain words from the English vocabulary. Words like ecstasy, gay and intimacy. The word intimacy bothers me the most. The newest version of Webster's Dictionary lists the third definition of intimacy as "an intimate act, esp. sexual intercourse." Now I know this is not the primary meaning in the dictionary, however, I would venture to say that it is "America's" primary definition. The primary definition in the dictionary is "close familiarity or friendship; closeness: the intimacy between a husband and wife." It breaks my heart to see this word twisted in America's language and in America's Christians. Because of the brokenness of today's family and the incredible influx of sexual content in the media, intimacy has been confused with sex and a pure understanding of what intimacy really is has been almost erased from society.

Being raised in an abusive home, this reality became a huge setback for me in my walk with the Lord. I very much confused the two and twisted them together as Satan intended me to do, much like he does with thousands of Christians around the world. I remember very vividly the day God began to change this distortion and unwind what Satan had twisted in my life. Often, same sex attraction and promiscuity is a key symptom or behavioral manifestation of an incorrect view or awareness of what God made intimacy to really mean. God has sought this closeness with His people from the very beginning of mankind.

In Genesis chapter 2 we see God's intention all along and in chapter 3 in verse 8 right after Adam and Eve fell, the Lord was walking in the garden in the cool of the day so He could be near His creation. In Genesis chapter 18 we see the Lord with Abraham giving him the news of the promised son to him and Sarah personally. When God gave the law to Moses in Exodus 19:5, He called the children of Israel His "Treasured Possession" and later in the consecration

of the priests in Exodus 29:45, God made His heart known to His people once again stating, "I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God." In the Gospel of John, the first chapter, we see God's heart again as "The Word (Jesus) becomes flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14)." Then showing the greatest display of love the world has ever known, Jesus took our place upon the cross.

Jesus sent the "Advocate" or "Helper", the Holy Spirit after He rose from the dead again, displaying God's heart and desire to commune with His creation. But now instead of dwelling among us He dwells in us. Paul was very aware of this and often warned Christians, in this case the Corinthians, of the great gift that we dare not defile. "What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, (2 Corinthians 6:16)." Paul also states this in the first letter to the Corinthians in chapter 3:16 "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"

All the time God was desiring intimacy with His creation, His "treasured possession;" the true meaning of intimacy, "a close familiarity or friendship; closeness." God, as King, has been betrothed to a bride, His bride. He wants to know and spend time with this bride to woo her and love her and to care for and nurture His bride as only God can. We are that bride and one day there will be no distortions of this intimacy as it states in Revelation 21:3&4, "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." ✨

Ricke is a second year Seminarian at the Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, Plymouth, MN

WEEKLY YOUTH LEADER CURRICULUM

Click button on lower right side or
e-mail youthleader@xtrlive.com

<http://xtrlive.com/home.php>



PASSION OF THE CHRIST

Thinking of showing “The Passion” movie? 25 Discussion Questions and much more.

http://interlinc-online.com/free/media/5/pasion_leadersguide.pdf

THE PURITY CODE

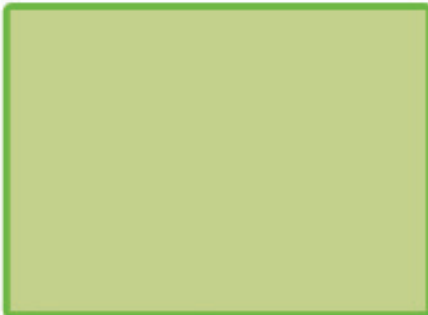
Jim Burn of Homeword on
teaching sexual purity to teens.

<http://www.youthministry.com/?q=node/20746>

THE 30 SECOND SHOWDOWN

Quick and effective game.

<http://www.youthministry.com/?q=node/21632>



FEELING A LITTLE NOMADIC?

Check out Adam McLane’s thoughts.

http://www.ymexchange.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=639&Itemid=10015

When you think about the ministry that the Lord has called you to, what are the first words that pop into your head?

Here are some of my answers:

- Jesus
- Gospel
- Teens
- Truth
- Church

As I reflect on God's call to love Him and to love people, a word that I find myself pondering lately is "sincerity". In the NASB, it occurs nine times. The uses of "sincerity" appear to have two major categories: (1) alongside of truth and (2) alongside of the heart.

Sincerity and truth brings a combination that addresses balance. It is that tension of "speaking the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15). We are warned from the extremes of both a mushy affection void of content and a powerful doctrine void of compassion. The character of God demonstrates to us the linked together truth and sincerity.

Sincerity and heart drives us to a depth of love. It captures the nature of God's love. It is not love, simply for the sake of love. It is not a cold transaction. It is a reckless, abandoned compassion – love springing from the bottom of the heart's fountain. Sincerity of heart is God's kind of love.

Out of the nine uses for "sincerity" in the NASB, four of them are in the letters to the Corinthians. I think I have lost count of the times that modern

urgent care

by Pastor Jason Holt

American culture has been compared to the issues facing the Corinthians. If, in the jaded culture the Corinthian believers found themselves, they needed to be reminded regularly of sincerity in their walk with Christ, then is it possible we face the same dilemma?

Instead of "Urgent Care", which places an emphasis on the immediate nature of it, we may need "Care Urgent". We may require a focus on the nature of the love being extended and being received. What if my soul was so nurtured by the compassion of Christ in the Word that my life poured out His care?

How would it impact the teens that I want to see fully follow Jesus?

How would it impact me?

"But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that you abound in this gracious work also. I am not speaking this as a command, but as proving through the earnestness of others the sincerity of your love also." ~ II Corinthians 8:7-8 ✝

Holt, the National Director of Youth Ministries for the AFLC, serves as Senior High Youth Director to Living Hope Lutheran Church, St. Michael - Albertville, MN



The Contact

AFLC Youth Ministries
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Plymouth, MN 55441
(763) 545-5631

E-mail: youth@afcl.org
Web: youth.afcl.org

The Contact is published twice a year to encourage and engage youth workers of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. The AFLC is a growing fellowship of 270 churches whose members believe that the Bible is true and that everyone needs Jesus. AFLC Youth Ministries exists for three goals: to win; to build, and to equip youth for Jesus Christ. We are here to assist in making disciples!

Editor

Pastor Jason Holt
AFLC Youth Ministries
National Youth Director
Mon-Fri, 8:30a.m. to 5p.m.
jasonholt@afcl.org

Managing
Editor

Naomi Andrews
AFLC Youth Ministries
Youth Ministries Associate
Mon-Fri, 8a.m. to 4:30p.m.
naomia@afcl.org

the contact

Association of Free Lutheran Congregations
AFLC Youth Ministries
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Plymouth, MN 55441
E-mail: youth@aflc.org

<i>Upcoming Events</i>	
June 10-28, 2009	Student Missions – Uganda student.missions@aflc.org
July 6-11, 2009	FLY Convention YMCA, Estes Park, CO youth.aflc.org/fly
October 16-18, 2009	Fall Campus Days Association Free Lutheran Bible School, Plymouth, MN www.aflbs.org
January 22-24, 2010	Youth Workers Retreat ARC, Osceola, WI youth.aflc.org
July 2010	FLY Boot Camp

<i>Table of Contents</i>	
Coffee Shop	
A Letter From the Father . . .	2
Youth Worker's Retreat	3
Reference Room	
Intimacy	4-5
Convenience Store	6
Urgent Care	7
Upcoming Events	8