

Royal Guard News

Volume 1 Number 3

April 2005

Welcome to this edition of Royal Guard News, the newsletter of the Usher Ministry of Immanuel's Church.

To Know Jesus Christ And To Make Him Known.

Royal Guard Meeting, Saturday March 12, 2005, Sun Room at Immanuel's Meeting Minutes:

Opening of meeting with the RG Ushers Prayer

The Ushers Prayer

Our father in heaven, we thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve as ushers in your house. We would rather be doorkeepers in the House of God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness (Psalms 84:10)

Help us Lord to serve you with our whole heart, our whole body and our whole mind.

We present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto you Lord. May our service be pleasing in your sight. Let all that we do be done to your glory, this is our prayer. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Praise & Worship (musical interlude)

Attendance sheet. Note it is important to be on time on the Sundays that you are scheduled to serve and checking in for prayer and instructions before your shift. It is also important to sign in so that we know you are here.

Schedules are not set in stone, you may be reassigned a position to fill gaps as they arise. Also if you cannot serve a particular Sunday please try to find your own replacement and let your shift leader know if you cannot find a replacement. Also if you want to change your schedule or take a hiatus let Everett know before the start of the month so he can update the printed schedule.

Recognize new people.

Of the 11 people that signed up at the ministry fair 2 made it out to the meeting. We welcomed: Karen Borland and Joseph Smith.

We also extended an invitation to the pastoral assistants to join us in our fellowship. Brad Hanks attended.

Birthdays For March

18-Mar Dete Aldrich
23-Mar Judy Smith

"Bowling for Guacamole" Saturday February 26, 2005

We want to thank Judy for her coordinating our "Bowling for Guacamole" a "friendly competition" at the AMF Laurel Lanes on Baltimore Ave (Rt. 1) in Laurel on Saturday February 26th. Thanks for all those that came out and participated. We had a great time and the Guacamole was delicious!

A challenge has been issued; the ladies would like to challenge the men to a "friendly" competition. What would be a good date for everyone?

For special events we have Phil & Judi Simpson and Robert Johnson as "shift leaders" who will coordinate with the Church on the ushering needs for the special events. They are assembling a "core" team and a plan for service. Your continued service is appreciated.

There are several special events coming up that we will need volunteers to usher for.

Sign up sheets are here and will be in the RG Room

Friday April 15, 2005 - Paul Wilber new CD release Concert

Sunday May 1, 2005 - National Christian Choir Concert

Sunday May 15, 2005 - Georgian Banov guest speaker and worship artist, with River of Joy Celebration

Monday May 16, 2005 - Georgian Banov guest speaker and worship artist, with River of Joy Celebration

Tuesday May 17, 2005 - Georgian Banov guest speaker and worship artist, with River of Joy Celebration

An important reminder. When you sign-up to usher for a special event / service you are making a commitment. We expect you to be there. If you find that you can't serve after signing up please let Virginia or Cyl know.

At the February meeting Robert Todd reviewed the locations of circuit breakers for the lights in the Sanctuary. We now have a laminated diagram of the breaker locations for you to keep in your Bibles for when the lights go out.

Our book for study is Your Best Life Now - 7 Steps to living at your full potential. By Joel Osteen.

Virginia & Cyl gave a presentation on Part 1 "Enlarging Your Vision", we have assigned "groups" for the remaining parts who will be giving separate presentations at the upcoming meetings.

April parts 2-3 "Develop a Healthy Self Image" and "Discover the Power of your Thoughts and Words",

May parts 4-5 "Let Go of the Past" and "Find Strength Through Adversity",

June parts 6-7 "Live to Give" and Choose to be Happy"

There will be a memorial service for for Deacon George Naming'ona in the Sanctuary at 11:00 a.m. on April 9, 2005 and we will be paying our respects as a group at that time. There will be a reception afterwards in the Fellowship Hall. The deacons who are Royal Guard members have been asked to usher at the service and the other RG members have been asked to provide food and assistance at the reception. This will be a very large service. George is our first ordained person to go home and he had many friends.

God wants to do big things in our lives! Let us not settle for a small view of God!

Remember we serve the God who created the universe!

Some words on Serving:
Ten Commandments for Getting Along With People

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (Jesus in John 13:34, NIV)

Relationships are truly the spice of life. When we get to the end of our life who wants to be the richest man in the cemetery? Not me, but I do want to be rich in loving relationships.

I have no idea who the author is but I just read the following commandments for getting along with people.

1. Speak to people. There is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting.
2. Smile at people. It takes seventy-two muscles to frown and only fourteen to smile.
3. Call people by name. The sweetest music to anyone's ears is the sound of his or her name.
4. Be friendly and helpful. If you would have friends, be friendly.
5. Be cordial. Speak and act as if everything you do is a genuine pleasure [make sure that it is].
6. Be genuinely interested in people. You can find something interesting about every person.
7. Be generous with praise ... and cautious with criticism.
8. Be considerate of the feelings of others. It will be appreciated.
9. Be thoughtful of the opinion of others. There are three sides to a conversation/argument: yours, the other person's, and the right one!
10. Be alert to give service. What you do for others is important. I

Suggested prayer: "Dear God, please help me to be a friendly person and a channel for your love to every life I touch. Thank you for hearing and answering my prayer. Gratefully, in Jesus' name, amen."

WHO EXACTLY ARE THE ROYAL GUARD

The Royal Guard are *ushers*; they *usher* the people of God into the Presence of God and they assist in *ushering* in the Presence of God Himself! The Royal Guard are called to insure the orderly conduct of the people of God in the House of God. They are spiritual *gatekeepers*, and as ministering servants in the House of the Lord; they are a branch of the deaconate (the New Testament equivalent of the Old Testament Levites.)

King David is the one who created the concept of the Royal Guard. He established from among the Levites "four thousand... to be gatekeepers" in the Temple (1 Chronicles 23:5)-guarding the Temple from unclean and adversarial spirits, and yet *assisting* the people of God themselves to enter into God's Presence with joy. King David set the age for these Levites as "twenty years old or more" (23 :27). "The duties of these Levites was to *help in the service of the Temple of the Lord...* [and] to be *in charge of the courtyards* [equivalent to our Rotunda]..." (23:28).

Theirs was a holy calling with a vast spiritual dimension. "They were to stand every morning to thank and praise the Lord. They were to do the same in the evening. ... they were to serve before the Lord regularly in the proper number and in the way prescribed for them" (1 Chronicles 23:30). All of this was because the Temple was to be "a place of rest" for our God, a place "for the footstool of our God" (1 Chronicles 28 :2). This indeed is a holy calling!

Psalms 84 was a psalm written for the Royal Guard in their Davidic ministry-
"How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living

God. ... Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; they are ever praising you. Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked. The Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does He withhold from those whose walk is blameless." Amen.