

Royal Guard News

Volume 1 Number 5

June 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 May 14, 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 were 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.

Birthdays in May

1-May Anthony Duval
10-May Susan Henry
11-May Corneilia Payne
22-May Judith Simpson
27-May John Aje

Prayer requests and praise reports.

We want to lift our Pastors up in prayer, Pastor Jamie for complete recovery from heart valve surgery, and Pastor Bill for recovery from severe bronchitis.

We also want to extend our best wishes and prayers to Fatima and Anthony, they were married on Saturday April 30th, for

those that missed the ceremony I have some pictures for you to look at before I give them to Fatima and Anthony.

On Monday May 2nd there was a dinner meeting with the Pastors, Ministers, Deacons and commissioned RG. These are meetings that the pastors want to bring together the various parts of the Deaconate so that we can serve our Lord and the congregation to the best that we can. That being said starting Tuesday September 13, 2005 all deacons and RG will be required to attend the new IBS course "Immanuel's School of Ministry" (ISOM). Two ISOM courses will be taught during the first IBS hour. 7:30 to 8:00 pm -- 2 Corinthians: "The Heart of a True Minister of Jesus Christ" (one chapter a week) then 8:00 to 8:30 pm -- "Floods Upon the Dry Ground" 2000 years of church history; required reading for all ordained and commissioned (deacons and RG) (one chapter a week).

The next scheduled joint meeting with the Pastoral Council will be Monday October 3, 2005 Dinner @ 6:00 pm in Room 311 followed by the meeting and specific prayer at 7:00 pm.

Fellowship Event:

"Bowling for Guacamole II" Saturday May 21, 2005
We want to thank Judy for her coordinating our last "Bowling for Guacamole" a "friendly competition" A challenge was put out that could not be ignored, so we will go again to the AMF Laurel Lanes on Baltimore Ave (Rt. 1) in Laurel on Saturday May 21st. A sign-up sheet is here, if you have not done so please sign up TODAY so that we can reserve the lanes. We hope to have as a great time as the last time and the Guacamole is delicious! I will not be in town that day. We need a person at the bowling alley to coordinate the payments and making sure things go smoothly

Special Events.

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 during special events is appreciated.

Comments from Phil:

"I want to briefly thank the team for supporting Judi and I and special events. To the older team members thank you for sharing your expertise and knowledge. To everyone thanks for working with us as problems arose and changes were made. To Cyl and Virginia thank you for your support and encouragement."

Thanks to those that served on:

Friday April 15, 2005 - Paul Wilber new CD release Concert
Sunday May 1, 2005 - National Christian Choir Concert

Comments from Cyl: "Members of the RG, we are members of a church that is on the move. Immanuel's is increasing in numbers. We are having more and more special events. As the church ushers we are being called upon to do more. Remember when we are serving here we are serving God! Let us continue to step up to the occasions."

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

Global Celebration with Georgian Banov at Immanuel's Church
Sunday, May 15
Monday, May 16
Tuesday, May 17

Each evening at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary
Free and open to all; childcare for ages 0-5 provided

Summer Celebration (what we used to call Holy Convocation)
Friday July 29
Saturday July 30
Sunday July 31

Jesús A Gomero Concert - Hispanic Outreach
Saturday August 13 (Ticketed Event)

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 cannot serve after signing up please let Phil or Judi or Virginia or Cyl know.

There is a revised special events calendar available and signup sheets will be in the RG room as the time comes nearer for the events.

There will be a discussion at our next meeting about the RG summer attire. I have a suggestion but we would only be able to wear it once (before we get booted out of the building)

The June meeting will be our last formal meeting until September. It is important that you check in the RG room for information and sign-up sheets for the upcoming events. We will also keep you informed by email and the RG website for those that have computer internet access. And for those that don't have computer access we will mail you updates as they arise.

PART II (Study Session)

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

In March 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.

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

For this month we are reviewing parts 4-5 "Let Go of the Past" and "Find Strength Through Adversity",

And winding up in June parts 6-7 "Live to Give" and Choose to be Happy"
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. 1

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.