



Dear Journey to Damascus Community,

As 2016 comes to an end, we would like to take a moment to reflect and give thanks to the teams, the community, and the Pax Christi Sisters and faculty for making our transition to Pax Christi so successful. Although there were challenges along the way, the timeline and weekend logistics have now been finalized for all future weekends at Pax Christi. Praise be to God for His grace, love and guidance!

Our **Journey to Damascus Annual Gathering** will be held on Saturday, February 4th, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. in St. Joseph's Hall at Pax Christi Sisters Retreat Center (4601 Calallen Drive). We will have live music, fellowship, speakers and, of course, plenty of FOOD! As in years past, this will be a potluck dinner where the BOD provides the entrée and the community brings the sides, etc. We will send out an email blast to the community the middle of January with food assignments and other related information. We look forward to seeing all of you there.

Please also mark your calendar to join us on Friday, March 31st, for our inaugural **Journey to Damascus Golf Scramble Fundraiser**. The proceeds from this fundraiser will go directly towards scholarships for both pilgrims and, God willing, team members as well. Participation in the golf scramble is not limited to JTD members, but is open to anyone that wants to play. For those that don't play golf, there will also be a fish fry and some auction items following the scramble. Please go to www.journeytodamascus.org to download the signup sheet. Contact Daniel Bluntzer at danielb@nfcmarkets.com or 361-813-9819 for more information. We will have more details in upcoming Newsletters.

There is one change to the 2017 weekends that is unavoidable...and that is the cost. As our expenses have increased over the past two years, the BOD has found it prudent to increase the team and pilgrim weekend fees to \$190, thus ensuring the financial stability of the ministry moving forward. All \$170 pilgrim fees received by our registrar prior to January 1st, 2017 are not subject to the increase. All pilgrim applications received after December 31st will be subject to the \$190 weekend fee. The pilgrim and team applications have been updated on the JTD website to reflect the \$190 weekend fee. We realize this might create an additional financial hardship for some community members that want to serve on a team, but we are confident that the upcoming golf scramble will raise enough money that we will be able to offer not only pilgrim scholarships, but also team scholarships for 2017 and beyond.

In other ministry news, the following is a letter from Linda Anderson with Kairos regarding their annual Christmas card drive:

*Dear Journey to Damascus Community,
For more than 10 years, the McConnell Kairos Community has distributed Christmas Cards to each resident of the McConnell unit in Beeville. They are given 3-5 new Christmas cards to use to send to their family or friends. Many of the incarcerated have no financial support and cannot buy cards in their commissary. We have heard testimonies about how a simple Christmas card has begun to heal wounds of years and decades. This year our program will support 9 prisons in South Texas with over 29,000 cards. We are asking for help from the entire Christian community to support this effort. Immediately after Christmas, cards are discounted everywhere and our community is able to collect a great number at a modest cost. We have found that there are many who are interested in supporting the prison ministry but are not called to go inside. This is an opportunity for almost anyone to participate. I will store the cards which are donated until the Christmas season of 2017. Please let me know if you have any questions or if you have cards for pick up.*

*Thanks and God Bless,
Linda Anderson
361-548-9090 or 361-985-6174*

The Kairos Ministry will also be holding a benefit concert featuring the praise band from Beeville's First United Methodist Church on Friday, January 20th, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Covenant Baptist Church. Admission is free, but donations will gladly be accepted. All proceeds will be used to facilitate the good work of the Kairos Ministry in proclaiming the Gospel to and caring for "the least of these". Please contact Linda Anderson for more details at landerson1@grandecom.net or 361-548-9090.

On behalf of the Corpus Christi JTD BOD, I would like to wish you and your family a blessed celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and a wonderful new year filled with His immeasurable grace, peace and love!

In His love,
Shane Beckwith
JTD BOD President

Past Lay Director's Thank You

JTD #160
Women's Corpus Christi
November 17th - 20th

Do not fear: I am with you; Do not be anxious: I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.
Isaiah 41:10

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

De Colores! What an amazing and blessed Journey weekend we all had! The Holy Spirit was truly present during our Journey weekend and the pilgrims and team were on fire and were touched by His love and spirit. The team and I were so honored to be able to meet all the women and welcome our new Sisters in Christ into the community. We all have such a tight bond with each other and are looking forward to reuniting at our Afterglow. Thank you to the community for all your prayers and love. Thank you for all that you did for our team and pilgrims. The agape you made, attending candlelight, sponsoring pilgrims, signing up for prayer vigil slots and attending closing was much appreciated. Thank you again to my supportive and amazing parents and the love of my life Danny. It was a blessing to be able to share this weekend with you all. I am forever grateful and honored to be able to be a lay director and will cherish this forever.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!

Alison Alonzo
Lay Director #160

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