



Heart & Soul News

Fall 2014

Update from the Pastor's Desk

God has called us to build champions through a Gospel revolution that brings transformation to our families, community, city, and world.

As I consider all the different things that God is doing in our midst I can't help but be extremely thankful. I will mention some personal things first and then share some exciting things that are happening at Heart and Soul. Nine months ago, our dear Pastor Joanne went to be with the Lord. The same day of that 9 month marker, my son Daniel turned eight years old. I can't help but continue to be amazed at the constant tug in my heart between the pain of losing this woman who meant everything in the world to me and the children, and also the joy of seeing the children growing and blossoming. Sara is now 9 months old, and growing healthy, beautiful, and active! Sara Sofia is the reason these days you might catch me with a silly smile on my face even when I'm not with her. What a joy. She is sleeping through the night for daddy and I know God has had special grace towards me in parenting this wonderful baby daughter. Daniel is eight now, loving school, friends, and good family times. This boy continues to fill my life with joy and thankfulness. He is always asking great questions and reminding me to drive the speed limit.

God is good. God continues to minister to us, strengthen us, love us, and remind us of His faithfulness and unfailing love.

At the same time, life often reminds us that Joanne, this amazing wife, mother, and pastor is not with us anymore. I have continued to shed some great tears, but also smiled as I recalled great memories of our 8 years together. For those of you who followed Joanne's journey with Lyme disease, you know how much she suffered. I am so thankful that she is not suffering any more. She is with the Lord. She is

Rejoicing in the presence of the One who makes all things new. It doesn't help me miss her less, but it does remind me of our great hope. Just the other night, Daniel, Sara and I watched the video tribute that was put together for Joanne's services. This was a miracle in itself because it had been too painful to watch in a while. Daniel and I cried much, and we laughed much. We felt the pain, but we smiled at the wonderful memories. Daniel was insistent that Sara watch mommy's video. It was a moment I will never forget.

Just last night I was reading this passage that was another encouraging word from the Lord:

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

We have victory through Jesus Christ. God wins over death. Joanne is in victory because of Jesus. These are comforting words. There was a young family from a sister church that recently lost their husband and dad to a tragic accident. My heart has been moved by their situation. The children and I have prayed for them with a sense of solidarity that has been a different experience. I feel these tragedies in a different, deeper way now. It is not

lost on me that tragedies are occurring all around. Some known, and some unknown. Our hope is still the same, "Death has been swallowed up in victory." Baxter family, our prayers continue to be with you.

Thank you for all the prayers, blessings, and support you give to the children and I. I know we have been blessed with world class friends, and world class family members. We love you.

God is doing really cool things at Heart and Soul. This past Sunday we did something exciting. We had a very short service, and spent the rest of our time ministering to the community. We literally left the sanctuary and walked into our neighborhood. Our goal was to do 3 things. Pray, clean, and connect. We prayed for the community, as we did that we were cleaning the streets, and also asking God for connections. He answered our prayer. Many reported having had meaningful connections with folks from the community. As we were out and about I personally connected with a gentleman who I had not seen in years. Our conversation ended with prayer and tears flowing from this man's eyes. God is at work! Our Eastside Community Church brothers and sisters joined us for this outreach. It was a blessing to see the body of Christ out in the community sharing and serving.

The church had a wonderful Vacation Bible School during the summer. This was our first attempt at VBS without Pastor Joanne who was so naturally gifted when working with children and organizing this event. I am so

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Update from the Pastor's Desk (continued from page 1)

proud of our Heart and Soul leaders and volunteers. They did an incredible job ministering to the children in our community. Many little lives were touched and our hearts continue to grow as a result. I want to say a special thank you to Suzanne Day. She was the leader of the event, and organized everything. Way to go Suzanne! She and her team were outstanding. We also continue to offer children's church on Sunday mornings. This includes breakfast for the kids, bible lessons and fun times together. God is at work.

As fall approaches we are excited about engaging with our congregation and the community in matters of faith and finance. We are doing a sermon series on God's way of handling money, as well as offering a faith and finance course that will very practically walk

individuals and couples through a process of being outstanding stewards of the resources God provides. God has called us to build champions through a Gospel revolution that brings transformation to our families, community, city, and world. One step at a time, God is helping us fulfill this dream.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. There is a song that has ministered to me these past few months. I leave you with this part of the song and hope you will join me in saying this prayer to God: "My heart

is yours, my heart is yours, take it all, take it all, my life in Your hands." God Bless



Louis Colón
Pastor

Outreach Sunday

The weather couldn't have been any nicer as Heart and Soul members, Eastside Community Church and youth group from New Life joined together to clean the streets surrounding Heart and Soul Church. Pastor Louis made it clear that our focus was to Pray, Clean and Connect. The people on the streets were very appreciative of us for picking up the trash, some we prayed with and some we just showed them love. This was an amazing experience, we are very thankful for the churches that joined us. God Bless.



Julia Lenkoane-Miller

Our Jungle Safari

The sanctuary was transformed into a jungle for one wonderful week in August, so that children in the North Clinton Avenue neighborhood and children of Heart and Soul could experience Jungle Safari VBS and learn about the nature of God. If you missed hearing 50 children and staff singing "I can count on God" at the top of their voices and with great animation, you missed a heart-warming experience. Through stories, games, skits, and small group interactions, children learned that God is Creator, Provider, Protector, Savior and King. The children heard and even acted out stories about the wonderful world God created, God's provision for the prophet Elijah during a drought, God's protection of Daniel in the lion's when he refused to stop praying to God, God's gift of salvation



through Jesus and the rule of God as King in heaven. Snacks, games and crafts all carried out the jungle theme and kept everyone engaged, moving and excited!

Throughout the week we also learned about the Lahu children in Thailand, who are being protected from exploitation and abduction by being enrolled in school. Encouraged by the story of these children and further driven by fierce competition between "teams", the children raised \$300 toward school supplies for children in the Lahu Youth Hostel.



VBS 2014 also featured the return of our beloved former H&S children's director, Katie, and drew on the talents of over 25 dedicated teens and adults, who came each evening from 6-8:30 to love our children and teach them to rely on God. Praise the Lord for a week to impact children



in our community and to demonstrate God's love and concern for each one.

Beverly Faro

Fundraising Dinners

We are raising funds for the ministries at Heart and Soul this fall. We will be holding special dinner gatherings toward this end. Thank you for considering being part of these dinners as they will be a blessing to the ministries of Heart and Soul and will also be a great opportunity to fellowship.



Please contact us at info@heartandsoulchurch.com if you are interested in learning more about these dinners or check our website for updates.



The Vision of Heart & Soul
Building Champions through a Gospel Revolution that brings Transformation to our family, community, city and world.

Leadership

Pastor: Louis D. Colón
Delegate: Julia Lenkoane-Miller
Treasurer: Carol Monnier

Interested in helping to support the ministry of Heart & Soul?

Checks can be mailed to 1185 N. Clinton Ave, Rochester, NY 14621 or visit us online at www.heartandsoulchurch.com