

Heart & Soul News

Spring 2014

Update from the Pastor's Desk

I still believe Jesus is in the business of seeing the lost found, the old made new, the hurting, restored and guilty, forgiven.

Where can I begin? As I reflect on the past few months my heart begins to beat faster and I am filled with emotions. Many joyful emotions, some very painful, but through it all I am primarily feeling thankful. After the passing of our dear Pastor, and the Love of my life, Joanne, things have changed. As you can imagine, our home is different, our hearts are different, and our outlook on life is different. I cannot help but think of our life here on this earth in a different way. I am reminded of Scriptures that say things such as, "Lord, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my life is but a breath." I also have been strengthened by that passage that encourages us by saying "we do not grieve as those who have no hope." Our God is a God who has conquered the grave. His promises don't end with death. In fact, they have only just begun.

I want to say that through this difficult time period, God has been close. He has been close to me and my children, and he has been close to our church family and leadership. God has provided everything we have needed. I am happy to report that my son Daniel is in school and doing well. I am so proud of him. He continues to amaze me as he reflects daily all of the lessons, scripture, and wisdom that his mother taught him. Sara Sofia is healthy and beautiful. She is the joy of my life and has truly captured my heart. I'd like to say a special thanks to all the moms that have donated breast milk and persons who have facilitated to make Joanne's dream of providing breast milk for the baby a reality. She has been so healthy and

relatively free of sickness and I know the milk she is receiving has been a crucial part of that. I want to thank the families and individuals who daily and weekly help me and the children with food, babysitting, and clothes. No words to describe what I'm feeling. Just know that as I write these words, I do it with tears in my eyes. Thank you to my parents also. They have sacrificed and served us in countless ways. I honor them for being there for me and the children every step of the way. We truly have been loved on by family, friends, and by the body of Christ.

There are two special thanks that I want to give within the body of Christ. I know many have been and continue to pray for us. I want to tell you that I have personally been strengthened by those prayers. In times where I have been broken and bent over with sorrow, your prayers and the grace of Jesus have steadied me and walked me by the hand. The Free Methodist body has been incredible. Our Bishop David Roller and his bride Yvonne have been a source of encouragement and inspiration. Fellow pastors have stood with me in countless ways. To the Free Methodist Church I say "thank you!" I also must say thank you to Heart and Soul Community Church. The Church I belong to. Where to begin? This church rallied during our time away. The leaders came together and the families stepped up. The church continued on during those difficult first few months and did a great job at being a family to me and to each other. I am so proud of them! I am so encouraged by them. What can I tell you about how this church has cared for me and the children? Let me say this. They organized and championed a food delivery website. Our family has never been lacking food! Most of you don't know that I am kitchen-challenged, and this church has made sure that their pastor and his children are taken care of in this area. Every

Sunday when I arrive at church, one of the lady's has been there to help with the baby and care for her while I fulfill my pastoral duties and preparation. The leaders have truly become a team and are working hard to see our dream for our church and community come to pass.

Our vision is to build champions through a gospel revolution that brings transformation to our families, community, city, and world. This is what ignites us as a church. New families are joining us, new opportunities are appearing. God is at work. I still believe God has called us to minister in this inner city of Rochester. I still believe that with God all things are possible. I still believe Jesus is in the business of seeing the lost found, the old made new, the hurting, restored and the guilty, forgiven. I still believe in the beauty of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There is simply nothing else like Jesus. God loves the people of our city. He has strategically placed Heart and Soul in the heart of the inner city for a reason. He has called us to build champions through His Gospel and in His Name we will see this community transformed. Jeremy Camp wrote a song reflecting on his wife's passing. It's ministered to me many times and I leave you with this encouragement. "I still believe in your faithfulness, I still believe in Your truth,



I still believe in Your Holy Word, even when I don't see, I still believe."

Louis Colón
Pastor

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Ministry Highlight: Teens

Spring has been an exciting time for the teenagers of Heart and Soul. With the help of Brian and Carol Babcock, we were able to take twelve teens to see the movie, 'God's Not Dead.' We followed up the movie with a three part Bible study where we discussed how and why we should boldly share our faith. We were also able to have our annual Lock In at the end of May. Games, food, laughter, and movies were enjoyed by all. It was a little rough waking up after a night of sleep on the hard sanctuary floor, but Suzanne Day's pancakes made it all worth it. We were also able to plant our Garden of Eatin'. It was wonderful to be able to see the ideas that the teens came up with when they attended Roberts Wesleyan's Elev8, come to life.

One of our current needs with teen ministry, is for male leaders. Someone who enjoys teaching and has a passion and vision for the teenagers of Rochester, would be ideal. I can tell you from my own experience, that this is such a rewarding opportunity. I cannot count the number of times that I have left youth group feeling so encouraged in my own faith, as a result of honest conversations with our teens. I have been able to witness some of them graduate high school, and mature into passionate leaders who love God and want to make a difference in their family and community. What a blessing! Sadly, this will be my last month of serving with the teens, it has been such a wonderful season in my life. I've been able to learn from them, and shared in some of their triumphs and also their pain. Thank you for letting me be a part of something so wonderful. I love you all, and will miss you dearly.



Rebekah Williams
Youth Group Leader



Our Garden of Eatin'

Even though I wasn't a part of the 2013 Elev8 event through Enactus at Roberts Wesleyan College, I was given the opportunity to help and be a part of their first place garden project. The reason why they decided to make a garden was because they wanted to help the community around the church. The garden was one of the best choices because we were able to build it on our own and take good care of it on our own. The plan is to grow vegetables that we will give to the community once they were ready.

I live the closest to the church so I volunteer myself to come and water and take extra care of the garden during the week. When I'm on my way to water the plants during the week, I always bring my Bible with me because I've decided to read and pray before and after I water the plants. I'm not only praying for myself and the garden but for everyone and everything I have in my life. I'm using the time I have to water and take good care of the plants to get closer to God and to think about my life and where I want it to go.

Thank you to Allyshia Nelson, Annan Lamin, Stephanos Pirko, Jamal Dima, Edi Muka, Benjamin Muka also known as Group 7, the group of teens that came up with the whole garden idea. Thanks to Katie Dunn and anyone else I'm forgetting that helped out big time.



Jillo Lamin

Our Littlest Blessings

You may remember last spring that three little ladies joined our Heart & Soul family. Everyone is treasuring having the newest addition around as well, Sara Sofia. What a blessing it is to have these precious girls around.



Update on Finances

Currently our finances are in a stable position. Praise the Lord! Financial gifting and tithes have been fairly consistent. Expenses are now manageable.

To that end, God is blessing us with the formation and establishment of an enthusiastic 'fund-raiser' team. Through faith in God's plan for us, prayerful meetings, and visions for our children and youth ministries, we are planning an event in the fall 2014. Be on the lookout for more news on this event!

Huge gratitude and blessings to all our outside donors and friends of Heart and Soul. Thank you for your financial support for our ministry to community families, all of whom drastically need the consequences of knowing and growing in Christ.

Thank You!



Carol Monnier
Treasurer

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