



Thoughts from the Tennis Court

Not long ago I was playing tennis with a friend. After a prolonged series of vigorous exchanges across the net in which both of us chased down near impossible drop shots, my partner exclaimed, "Hey, let's just take a break for a moment and thank God that both of us are still able to do this."



Pastor Bob Zoba

I have to admit his remark caught me by surprise...for two reasons: a) I was already thinking about what I could do to improve my chances of winning the next point, and b) I, the pastor, was supposed to be the one offering spiritual tips about the specialness of life. However, all foolish pride aside, I did, in fact, pause and reflect what a privilege it was to have the opportunity to engage in something so playful as the game of tennis. Work can often be so draining, taxing, and monotonous, but play is creative, expressive, and fun. Some people paint masterpieces on canvas. I prefer to craft points on a tennis court. But play, in whatever form, is a great antidote to work.

So, too, playing tennis is a game that has its statute of limitations in terms of health. I realize that there will come a day when I will no longer be able to engage in it at a level that is satisfying. But I am grateful that that day has not come yet. In the meantime, I need to take my tennis partner's advice and savor it while it lasts for there are no guarantees when it comes to good health.

But, of course, this applies to so many other areas of life. For example, as we turn the calendar page into March, I am taking time to pause and give thanks that I live in Puerto Rico. As someone who spent over a quarter of a century in colder climes, I remember all too well the frustrations of the month of March. After another frigid February, March always offered the prospect of baseball's spring training, longer days, and warmer tem-

Sunday Services
10:00 a.m.

Adult Sunday School
9:00am

Sunday School
PK-12
10:30am

Choir Practice
9am & 11:30am

Weekly Activities
Ladies Bible Study
Tuesdays 12-2

Small Group @ Rivera's
Tuesday 7pm

Men's Breakfast
Wednesday 7am

Women's Study
Friday 7pm

Youth Group
Friday 7pm

Prayer Service
Thursday 6pm

Second Union Church
Ave. Apolo esq. Mileto
Guaynabo, PR 00969
787-720-4423
secondunionchurch.
com
Rev. Robert Zoba

peratures. However, too often those tantalizing hopes were dashed as a stretch of warm days were rudely abridged by a raw winter storm that sent everyone back into hibernation. Thus, I have to pause and remind myself how wonderful it is to wake up every day in Puerto Rico and know that winter is no longer a threat, and summer is almost eternal on this enchanted isle.

So, how about you? What can you be thankful for? A job that provides a living, a spouse who still loves you despite your faults and foibles, children who bring you joy, walks along the ocean that are stunning, or even a quiet night at home reading a novel or watching a favorite TV show with your family? My word to you is to take the advice of my tennis partner. Don't let life pass you by without pausing and savoring what it offers along the way. There is a sermon in every sunset and God's presence is revealed at every turn. All that we lack is the eye to see and the ear to hear. Are you watching? Are you listening? I hope so. Our God, and Savior, is waiting for you to notice Him.

Blessings!
Pastor Bob

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Second Union Church has a new website! www.secondunionchurch.com

We've been working on getting the web site back up for months, and finally we have launched the new site. In addition to general information about the church, the calendar, and the activities offered, we are also posting Pastor Bob's sermons in an MP3 format. The Lenten Devotionals are being posted daily, and we also have links to the Women's Ministry site.

The web is a powerful tool for reaching our community for Christ. If you can think of ways we can take advantage of this presence, your input will be greatly appreciated. Contact Christie Zoba.

We want to thank Don Marx, who provided our web site for so many years - we are so grateful for his contribution. We'd also like to thank Dalan Decker, who helped us get the new site up and running. God has really blessed us with talented individuals who are generous with their gifts.

In Memory: Kathleen Stowell

Kathleen R. Stowell 9/24/1913—2/23/2013

The Second Union Church family held a memorial service for Bill Stowell's step-mother, Kathleen, who passed away last week at the age of 99. For those of us who had the privilege of praying with Bill at Bible Study or Prayer Service, we are well aware of his love and admiration for Kathleen. We join with him in his sorrow.



Bill wrote, "She was a teacher of Social Sciences San Dieguito High School in Encinitas for which she received many honors and awards. She was active in the Encinitas Methodist Church as a worship leader and Sunday School teacher. This was in addition to her being very active in numerous civic organizations.

Kathleen was an avid most excellent horseback rider. She often accompanied my cousin Donnie and I on illegal, trail blazing, flat out "Eddie Arcaro" races across the Golf Course at Rancho Santa Fe. She rode on my motorcycle and would fearlessly accompany my associates and me aloft to 5,000 ft and 6,000 ft. in gas balloon feats over Torrey Pines adjacent to La Jolla.

Later on at her retirement residences in Del Mar and at Mari de Ville in St. Louis she often led the weekly evening Bible Study. While visiting her 10 years ago, impulsively I asked to accompany her. It was then I started to become seriously interested in the Bible and following its teachings. It was at that point we started on the road to become a Christian. From the time I was 4 years old, I kind of thought I was "OK and Covered". I would attend both Methodist and Catholic church services regularly. I came to realize that I wasn't "Covered"...It was through her low key influence and example that I came to know, believe and follow the Bible. 8 years ago I was Baptized in Christ and shortly thereafter it was a whole new "Ball Game"...It was as if I had a new "Chip" in me...My thinking and conduct changed....It all started with mother Kathleen.

George and Joan McMurray--los abuelos--had a visit from their youngest grandson Blake McMurray who came to PR from California to participate in a Rotary leadership seminar? Blake was one of thirty high school seniors selected; all are trying to chose which university to attend in the fall of 2013. Next month the McMurrays are off to Mayo Clinic in Jackson for "routine" checkups. They are planning a boat trip on the Rhine River in the spring.

Victoria Woodruff recently performed at a piano recital at 2UC?

Robert Ramos recently made a visit back to PR and dined with Joe & Elilda Ramos, Pastor Bob & Christie, and Eduardo McCormack? Robert is doing great, excited about the Lord and serving Him through a drama ministry. He hopes to bring the whole family back some day for a visit.

The office staff is elated that **David & Cheryl Virginia** recently donated a Keurig coffee maker with tons of coffee and cups. This has kept everyone buzzing.

2UC will be having it's **Second Annual Golf Tournament** on April 20th at the Sherton course in Cauguas. The proceeds will benefit our Homes of Hope missions trip to Mexico & the Ministry with Mariners & Fishers (check bulletin board at 2UC for more information).



Bill Heffley writes: I was blessed to have family visit the island. My sister Laura (who visited Second Union 2 years before with her husband Terry), her eldest daughter Kim, sister Sharon and her good friend Kay, brother Paul Vernon and wife Carolyn. We rented a mini van, drove down to Ponce for a day and to other places. Paul and Carolyn were on the radio with me. That was a thrill for me. Carol was a natural behind a microphone. She talked about a pet pig named Blossom that the family raised. A great subject for Kid's Time!

I will host a visitor from Tokyo, Japan - arriving in a few weeks. She is a friend of Kim, Laura and Terry. I have never met her. She heard stories and wants to see Puerto Rico. I hope she joins me for church.

Anita Rodriguez is back from Florida and we are glad!?!

Curtis Muldrow is taking classes at Dallas Theological Seminary, where **Matt Golley** will soon be enrolled as well?



Becca Hoffman is so very happy to be hosting a visit from her parents?

Lisa Defendini is a pie maker 'par excellence' as she has been pumping out pies of every size and flavor?

Edwin & Conchi Perez are hosting over 250 or their Puerto Rico Supply employees in a trip to Paris? Wow! (Pastor Bob is applying for a position in personel ;-)



Brenda Ferrer writes: Yes, I have a life. A very blessed one, I might add. I am serving 2UC on the Membership Committee and wherever else needed in my church. I've also been quite busy working with the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary where I currently hold the office of secretary. We are currently preparing to host a fundraising event, "Sweet Afternoon" which will be held on March 13, 2013 at the Verdanza Hotel in Isla Verde from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. In addition, in my role as Community Lay Director of Sonlights in Puerto Rico, the English speaking Emmaus Comunity, I'm a part of the team preparing for the upcoming Women's Walk to Emmaus which will be held at the Cappuchin Center in Trujillo Alto May 2 to 5, 2013. And, in addition, I'm also working with my fellow Emmaus Board members to coordinate a Family Gathering to be held, March 9, 2013 at the mentioned site from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Then, in my spare time, I volunteer at WBMJ in the Bible Correspondence School (BCS) grading lessons, proof-reading newly prepared lessons and working with the station during its yearly Share-a-Thon and Pray-a-Thon. P.S. I forgot to mention that I am working with my eldest grandson on all the preparations for our family reunion to be held over the Labor Day weekend in MD. We should have 100+ family members attending.

David & Laurie Yost recently make a pilgrimage back home to AZ where they got to shovel snow and go skiing. Also, David has resurrected his tennis skills from his college days and has been playing doubles tennis with Pastor Bob and Dennis Gonzalez.

It is rumored that **Rashel Krankovich** may be visiting PR in March?

Willi Chin has the most frequent flyer miles of any one at 2UC, but whenever he is on the island, he and his daughter **Denna** are here for worship? (And Denna is here even when he is not!!!)

John & Evelyn Alberts are traveling to Chicago to visit with their new grand-daughter Aubrey?

Jose Aymet & Paloma Del Llano cooked up a marvelous Asian menu for our most recent 2UC Café, supporting our youth missions trip to Mexico this summer? The next 2UC Café will have a French menu. Don't miss it!



Ivonne and Jesse Sargent write: We both are alive and kicking up a storm. Ivonne is busy with her two jobs each day and presidency of our 98 unit apartment complex. We recently were blessed with Ivonne's son and my stepson's 20th birthday party at our house. We were able to Skype Mauricio, the birthday boy's brother, stationed in Guam serving our country in the Air Force so he could be part of his brother's party. Ignacio had several of his friends from Mayaguez College of Engineering present and a good time was had by all. Thank God for Friends and Family! I am busy as usual ministering to the Seafarers and Fishers in Puerto Rico. We have a Sunday night service at Pier 10 starting at 6:00 PM, sermon, alter call and communion. Everyone at 2U is invited to attend any Sunday, please let me know in advance so I can give you directions and meet you there to get you a security pass. I enjoy Luis and Loraine's Tuesday night Bible Study Group at 7:00 PM and encourage everyone to attend. Our Lord is present and the Holy Spirit is active in this group. For me it's a two day Bible Feast also attending Wednesday morning Men's Bible Study led by our own Shepperd, Bob Zoba one of the most gifted preachers of God's Word I have ever listened too. Every Sunday morning I attend St John Baptist Cathedral in Santurce assisting the Priest Fr Dimas with the service. I plan to become a Deacon if it is God's will (yes I will turn my collar around when ordained). Attending 2U Sunday School, (always late) but Disciple Stan still allows me to come in the door anyway. Church at 2U is my weekly blessing and I could listen to Pastor Bob preach and teach all day. Thanks to everyone from my heart for your support of my Seafarer Ministry, especially, PB, Julio, Edwin and Men's Breakfast Group. I will be attending the Lutheran training in the states this year and also the Annual Chaplain's Convention in Florida. April 17th through the 29th I will be celebrating my twin grand children's birthdays and my 70th birthday (don't feel a day over 55) in Albuquerque,

New Mexico, God willing."God don't mind the mule just load the wagon"! Ask PB about this saying if you want more information I sent him the book.

Natalia McCormack has the lead role for the upcoming performance of "Hairspray"? The musical will be presented at Baldwin School's new theater on March 12. For tickets ask Eduardo!

Joe Calcolli has proven once again that you can't keep a good man down as he has bounced back from a third hip surgery?

Pastor Bob feels very blessed to have spent time with his sons and daughter-in-laws during the month of February? They all came to PR for a visit and Pastor Bob had the chance to ski with them in Vermont for 2 days!



Elilda Gil officiated at a wedding in February. Daughter Adrienne writes, "I'm so proud of my mom!"

Joe Ramos recently baptized 4 youth and 2 adults in the ocean at Palmas del Mar?



William Foster recently celebrate his one-year birthday? There were lots of little 'amiguitos' present at his pool-side party! A fun time was had by all! Congrats Matt & Laurie!!!





I am a marathoner. As you might imagine, it requires many days of training runs of 10 miles or more. Now, running long distances can grow tiring; aches and pains develop, thoughts of quitting slip in. How then does a long distance runner get through the distance? Here's one thing I've learned.

During the run there is a lot of time to think. When I think about the aches and pains, about the heat, about the distance I have yet to cover, or the hills I still have to climb, the aches become stronger and my

belief that I can finish dwindles. Caught up in concentrating on each footfall, I often quit. But, I've discovered when I think about other things, things outside of myself, I cover miles without even realizing that I've done so. When I let myself get over myself and think about the other people in my life, or the other tasks I want to complete, I can do so much more than I thought I could than when I'm thinking about my own sore muscles or tired feet.

The same is true in non-running life. We all have problems. Some minor, some extremely troubling. As long as we dwell on our troubles, even the small ones, they overwhelm us. The problems grow bigger in our minds, crowding out other thoughts. Any belief we can beat the difficulties diminishes. They do us in. Quitting begins to look logical. If, instead, we begin to work with and for others, we can find respite from the problems and often find we've covered much of the distance to resolve them without knowing it.

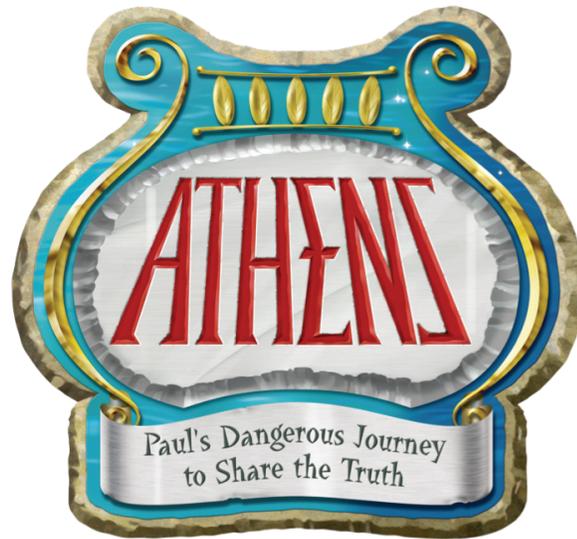
This is not to say that we can just forget our troubles. Even as a runner, I can't completely ignore the aches and pains. I need to pay attention, to revisit them from time to time to make sure that I am not injuring myself. It's the same with life's problems. We can't ignore them. We can't forget about problems and expect them to disappear. We need to check in on them and do what we need to do to work to resolve them. But if worry about problems becomes a full time job, it only adds burdens upon an already difficult situation. It may cause you to give up. Don't.

Don't increase the burden. Use time to help others. Lighten your own burden by lightening the burden of others. In the end, with prayer and God's help, you will achieve your goal. Race on.

John C. Alberts

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

1st Corinthians 9:24-27



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Prayer habits that last a lifetime are most often formed in childhood. That's why it's so critical to teach young children how to pray. As with most spiritual disciplines, prayer is caught more than it's taught. As teachers model meaningful prayer lives, kids will learn how they, too, can talk to their Creator.

Practical ways to "bring kids to their knees"!

Here are the basics of teaching children how to pray.

Help children talk to God. Everyone -- especially children -- would find sitting down to prayer easier if we could find a way to forget our notions of "correct prayer methods" and just start talking. To do this, avoid focusing on form in prayer. Rather, model for your children an easy, comfortable way to simply talk to God as you'd talk to a friend. Urge children to talk to God just as they'd talk to anyone else. They can tell God about their day, express their fears, and even be a little mad if they want to.

There's nothing too big-or too small-for God.It's true; God can help us face the hardest moments in our lives. God is also there to share in our smaller moments, too. He wants to know how our day went. He enjoys hearing that the rainbow we saw early in the morning made us smile, and that the bully on the playground scares us.

Anything is okay to talk to God about. Don't discourage a child from including a song from The Little Mermaid in her prayer. Let her thank God for her favorite movie and share what's in her heart.

Making prayers relevant to children's lives enables them to grow in prayer. Because kids have a strong tendency to view the world in terms of me, my, and mine, capitalize on this very normal stage of development by focusing prayer on kids' everyday concerns. For example, many adults make the mistake of asking young children to pray for church missionaries. Chances are kids don't understand what they're actually asking God for. As a result, God becomes more remote.

A better idea would be to focus kids' prayer requests on asking God to heal Damon's chickenpox, giving thanks for Jasmine's new puppy, or asking for help for Alex, who may find it difficult to sit through class quietly.

God listens to ALL prayers. God is always there, willing and eager to listen to what we have to say. But kids aren't always so sure; sometimes they need proof.

So give it to them. The best way to help children realize that God truly listens is to point out answered prayers. Did you ask for the quick recovery of Andi's cold? When she's feeling better, thank God for answering your prayers.

Make answered prayer visual by creating a prayer wall where kids write their prayer requests on one side of a divider. When the prayer is answered, move the prayer request to the other side. Thank God for each answered prayer.

Help children understand that God may answer prayers in several ways. God may answer exactly as children requested. But God may also answer in a different way, wait to answer, or say no. Help children see these answers to prayer also.

Article by:
Maurcia Delean Houck (Children's Ministry Magazine)

Here is a helpful approach for teaching kids to pray. It's a format that allows children to recall and pray in their own words for five different groups of people. All this lines up with the five fingers of their hand.

Teaching Kids the Five Finger Prayer

Thumb (people who are close to you) These are your close friends and family, often the first you think about when you pray. Give thanks to God and ask his protection on your parents, siblings, friends, and classmates.

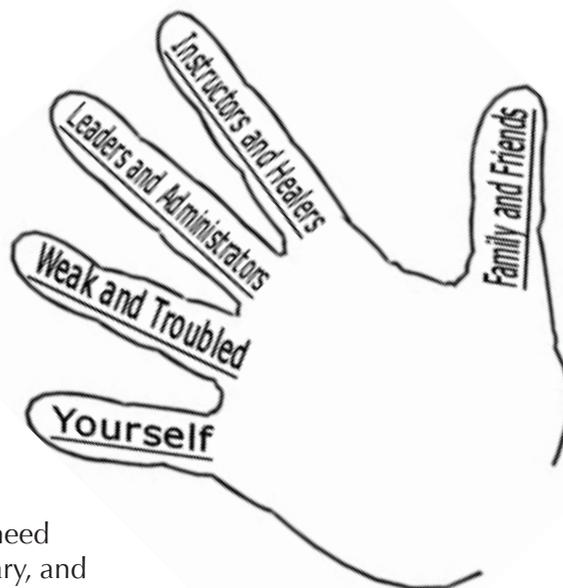
Pointer (people who point the way) These are leaders in your life, such as teachers and pastors. Offer God your thanksgiving for them and ask him to help them in their important work.

Tall Finger (people in authority) The big people in the world need prayer too. Ask God to give wisdom to our government, military, and police.

Ring Finger (people who are weak) This is your weakest finger. We should remember others who are sick, live in poverty, or are treated badly. Pray that Jesus would give them new strength.

Little Finger (your own needs) God wants to hear your needs too, especially when you put others first. Pray for your own growth in mind, body, and spirit.

From Ministry to Children website: <http://ministry-to-children.com/five-finger-prayer/#sthash.MiYl2YDp.dpuf>



Children at Church say the darndest things!

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"

A six-year-old was overheard reciting the Lord's Prayer at a church service: "And forgive us our trash passes as we forgive those who passed trash against us."

A child came home from Sunday School and told his mother that he had learned a new song about a cross-eyed bear named Gladly. It took his mother a while before she realized that the hymn was really "Gladly The Cross I'd Bear."

A father took his five-year-old son to several baseball games where The Star-Spangled Banner was sung before the start of each game. Then the father and son attended a church on a Sunday shortly before Independence Day. The congregation sang The Star-Spangled Banner, and after everyone sat down, the little boy suddenly yelled out, "PLAY BALL!!!"

What is the Women's Ministry Team?

"The Women's Ministry Team is a ministry branch of Second Union Church of Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. We have a deep, rich history of equipping women with the Word of God, teaching leadership skills, and the true meaning of servant-hood.

Our goals are to build relationships with each other and with Jesus."

What do we do? We pray for each other and for the women of this church to draw closer to God, to grow in knowledge and understanding of who he is and what He has called us to do.

To accomplish this we meet together to pray and fast once a month. [The days will vary, had been 3rd Friday of each month at noon, but really practical for our Mon-Fri, 9-5 team members].

We provide opportunities to study, serve, and fellowship. We do this by leading bible studies, crafting workshops, seminars, and retreats.

We help the community through women and children based charities with money, talents, and time We host the annual Christmas Bazaar in order to raise money for charities, to use our collective talents for God's glory, and to give our church family an opportunity to work together.

And our in house mission project [Backpack program to help school age kids who are food insecure] in order to give the women of 2UC and the community a place to serve- which will be up and running soon!

The women of 2UC vote on the team members every May. The team leader serves on 2UC council and must be a member of 2UC. The finances are managed by the church treasurer; the team selects the charities to give the money raised from the Bazaar and any other fundraisers with the consent of the women of the church.

Our goal is to equip women with the word of God to serve and lead; and to build relationships with the women around us [at church and in our communities.

If you'd like to be a part of this team, please speak to Anita Rodriguez or email her at anita00969@aol.com

BackPack Program

The Backpack Program is just about to be implemented by the Women's Ministry Team. We have chosen a school, the Juan Jaramillo Elementary School in the Canta Gallo sector of Guaynabo. We have submitted the paperwork necessary to become a member of the Food Bank of Puerto Rico. We even have received the first shipment of backpacks. We hope to begin the program within the next month. If you'd like to be a part of this ministry, see Christie Zoba, Laurie Yost or Anita Rodriguez and we'll give you more information.



Women's Bible Study

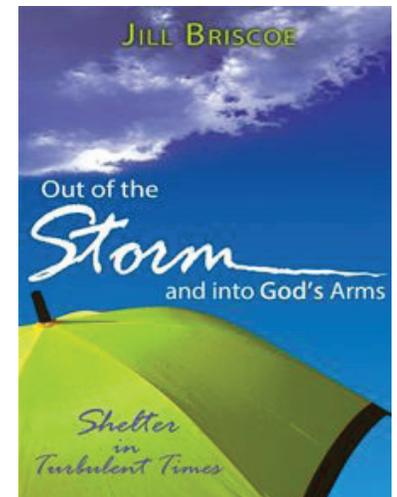
Ladies Bible study on Wednesday night has been moved to Friday nights.

Join us on Fridays in the Conference room at 7:00 pm. The bible study is based on Job and his daughters. Child Care will be provide . For more information please contact Mabel Varela (she is substituting for Anita Rodriguez)

How do you react to suffering? What do you do when the storm clouds of life surround you—and you can't see the silver lining? Where do you turn when God feels distant?

Exploring truths from the book of Job, Jill Briscoe addresses the tough issues that result from the collision of affliction and faith. Is it OK for me to struggle with serious problems—even though I'm a Christian? Is God listening to my prayers? Will I ever find peace?

With individual/group study questions at the end of each chapter, *Out of the Storm and into God's Arms* will help you engage and overcome your pain through the power of the Holy Spirit. Jill reveals that no matter how violently your storm rages or how dark your situation might seem, God is your rock, your shelter, your safe



Tuesday Lunchtime Bible Study: New Study Tuesday, March 5

Unglued: Making Wise Choices in the Midst of Raw Emotions

What do we do with these raw emotions? Is it really possible to make emotions work for us instead of against us? Yes, and in her usual inspiring and practical way, Lysa will show you how. Filled with gut-honest personal examples and Biblical teaching, *Unglued* will equip you to: * Know with confidence how to resolve conflict in your important relationships. * Find peace in your most difficult relationships as you learn to be honest but kind when offended. * Identify what type of reactor you are and how to significantly improve your communication. * Respond with no regrets by managing your tendencies to stuff, explode or react somewhere in between. * Gain a deep sense of calm by responding to situations out of your control without acting out of control.

Great news: Babysitting is provided, and for \$8 you can buy a lunch from our in-house caterer, Anita Rodriguez. Or you can bring your own!

For any questions, please contact Christie Zoba at 787-717-4001.

ONE

From January 25th thru the 27th of January we held the Impact 2UCy retreat. Twelve youth participated, all of whom arrived with great expectations for what would occur during this time. The Lord directed us to choose "ONE" as the retreat theme. Our goal was to encourage the young people to be ONE with God so that they could then form ONE team. Each of us is different, with unique gifts, talents and abilities to contribute to our youth group.

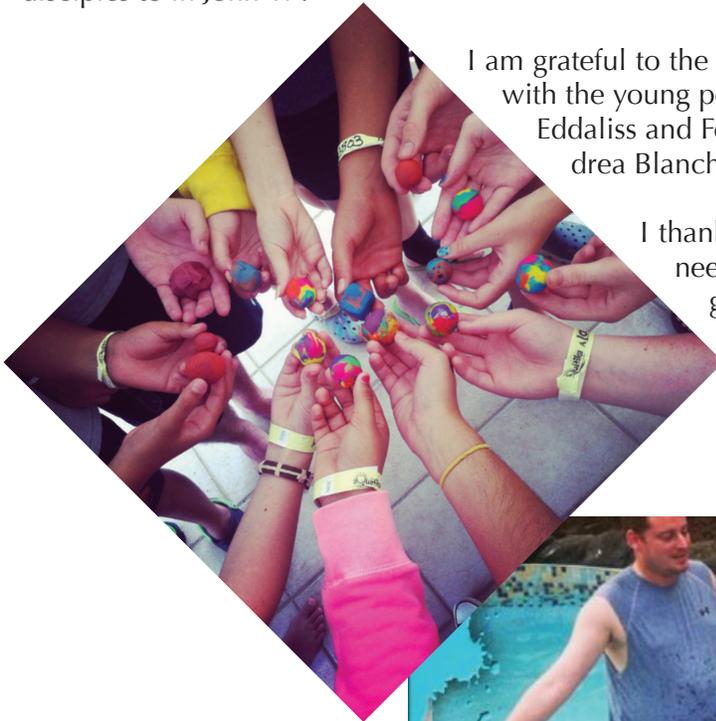
Through games and activities we were able to come together as a group and achieve the teamwork and unity that Jesus exhorted His disciples to in John 17.



I am grateful to the church, the Pastor and the parents for trusting me with the young people. I would also like to thank Becca Hoffman, Eddaliss and Fernando Bentz, Cherish Lexvold and my wife, Andrea Blanchard, who helped make this retreat possible.

I thank God for being with us and trust in Him for the needed guidance and strategies to accomplish our group goals; especially those associated with the upcoming summer trip.

Ricardo Jusino
Second Union Church Youth Pastor





2UCY GROUP MEETING & STUDY

FRIDAYS

7PM



2UCY
TOURNAMENT

**SATURDAY,
APRIL 20, 2013**

at the

Caguas Real

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- 3 Sponsor signs on the course

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- Large Banner at Clubhouse
- Logo on Shirt
- Program Recognition
- 2 Sponsor signs on the course

Hammer Sponsor \$500

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- Sponsor sign on the course
- Banner Recognition in Clubhouse

Nail Sponsor \$100

- Program Recognition
- Banner Recognition in Clubhouse

Casa Santa Ana

The 2UC Outreach Committee recently made a trip to the mountain town of Adjuntas, Puerto Rico to deliver gifts to Casa Santa Ana, a home for girls (newborns to teens) who have been victimized by abuse. The members of the committee were impressed with the beautiful home and well-maintained facilities of this orphanage. Julio and Thelma Rivera were accompanied by Irma Torres. Thanks to all who sponsored a child and brought the gifts to the church.



CASA San Agustín del Coqui

Julio Rivera, Pastor Bob and Christie Zoba visited the new facilities of CASA San Agustín del Coqui on the occasion of their inauguration. This architectural jewel is located in the hills of Aguas Buenas and can accommodate up to 70 boys from the ages of 6 through 16. The two nuns who founded this organization many years ago spoke about their vision for this institution. They surpassed many obstacles and after years of hard work and prayer, their dream to help the abused children have a loving home is finally a reality. They were very thankful to Second Union Church for the support they have received.

