



*For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink . . . Matthew 25:35*

## MILESTONES

I recently realized that this year marks a major spiritual milestone for me. This year marks the 40th year of my Christian pilgrimage. I would like to claim that I became a Christian when I was only four, but the truth is I was a junior in high school when I asked Christ into my life. This act of surrender marked the culmination of a very rough and rocky patch in my life. Like most adolescents, I was searching for some sense of identity, popularity, and acceptance. Since my brother was an All-State Quarterback and won a scholarship to Harvard because of his athletic accomplishments, I naturally pursued football as my ticket into the party of acceptance and self-worth. However, as you might surmise, I was no taller in ninth grade than I am now. (OK, maybe a smidgen taller as I have probably already begun to shrink.) When I switched to wrestling in my sophomore year I figured I could level the playing field since wrestling was based on weight and not size. However, being a late-comer to the sport, I did not find much success and the practices were arduous and physically punishing. So, I quit.

Consequently, I felt like a failure and loser. These feelings were compounded by the fact that I had lost my best friend to a different high school so I felt bereft of friends and success. One would think that in such a state, I might turn to the Lord for help. So too, having grown up in a small Baptist church that preached the Gospel, I should have naturally turned to the Lord. However, I was angry with God and questioned his goodness and power. I reasoned that if God was good and all-powerful then He would do something about all the innocent people who suffer in the world. Since He did not seem to do anything about suffering, that meant He was either not so good or not so powerful. And this created a dilemma. So, instead of turning to God, I turned to partying. And for once in my high school career, I found some new friends. In fact, for a time, I believed I had found the solution to a happy life: fast friends and hard partying. But it was not long before I realized the emptiness of this quest as well for I no longer felt happy about life, just burned out and stupid.



Pastor Bob Zoba

# 2nd Thoughts

MAY  
2013

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

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Rev. Robert Zoba

The real turning point came forty years ago when I sat down and started reading Dostoyevsky's The Brothers Karamazov. On one level, this is a murder mystery involving a patricide. On another level, this book is a philosophical discussion of the very dilemma I had about God's goodness, power, and the suffering that we see in this world. In the course of reading that great book, God unfolded the truth that He does not extinguish all suffering from the world, but, by His grace, He does redeem it and transform it into great good. Indeed, the one person who suffered more than anyone else and yet was truly innocent was Jesus. And yet God the Father used the unjust suffering of Jesus to bring about the greatest good to ever come upon the earth: salvation for all. I still do not fully understand all the mysteries of that vexing philosophical question, but I do know enough to know that God is truly gracious enough and powerful enough to transform all suffering for our good and for His glory.

Thus, forty years ago this year I came to that amazing realization and, one night, before going to sleep, I simply asked Jesus to come into my life and become my Savior and Lord. The rest, as they say, is history....his-story...His story.

Blessings! *Pastor Bob*

**Second Union Church  
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Rev. Robert Zoba

**Youth Pastor**  
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Risa Tobin

**Membership**  
Jeff Cherok

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**[secondunion.org](http://secondunion.org)**

Check out our website for Pastor Bob's sermons, Pastor and Leader comments, upcoming events and more. A copy of the newsletter is also posted on the website. We welcome your contributions!

**COME AND JOIN THE FUN AT THIS YEAR'S  
VBS AT SECOND UNION CHURCH!  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !!**

**GAMES, CRAFTS, SONGS,  
BIBLE STORIES AND SNACKS FOR AGES 4 TO 10!**

**DATE: JUNE 3 -7, 2013  
TIME: 9:00A.M. TO 12:00P.M**



**Register online: [www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/hl/secondunion](http://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/hl/secondunion)  
For more information contact Edith at: [edith.perezsuvbs@gmail.com](mailto:edith.perezsuvbs@gmail.com)**

## 2UCY Mission Trip Fundraisers

### Albert Laddin

Summer is coming!  
And with it comes the fun and thrills of the annual 2UC Players Summer Dinner Theater. Like Disney we have reached into the vaults and pulled out that gem "Albert Laddin", a comic, rollicking play all in rhyme. It is a story of trust, true love, and trickery.

This re-telling of Aladdin and his magic lamp is a must see for the whole family. Tickets go on sale very soon. All proceeds will benefit our annual youth mission trip. This year to Mexico!

So mark your calendars, June 14 and 15, and get your tickets today!

Second Union Church Players Presents  
Summer Dinner Theater



June 14-15, 2013 / 7 p.m.

Reservations requested/ Tickets available @ church office  
Adults \$12 / Kids under 10- \$8  
Five, Apolo, Esq. Mileto, Guaynabo / 787.7220.4428



Bucapla Court  
Urb. Apolo, Guaynabo

May 25, 2013

9am to 3pm

Team Registration \$20

Individual player \$2

General public admission \$1

Lunch will be for sale

Childcare @ 2UC \$5 per child

[includes movie, snacks, and games]

\*\*All Profits are for Youth Mission Trip

For More Information Please contact Joshua Estremera  
Ramon China or Ricardo Jusino

Our Helping Hands ministry, recently started by Evelyn Alberts, is doing great things: visiting the sick, bringing food to those shut in, and blessing others in need?

David Banderman and Roddy Kelly are both happy that their respective teams, the St. Louis Cardinals and Atlanta Braves, are off to fast starts...but everyone knows this is the year of the Cubs;-)

Fernando & Edda Bentz are expecting another child? (Congrats!)

Willie Chin has relocated to Miami, FL but still drops in on us often?

Our Golf Fund-raiser was tons of fun, well organized, and full of prizes and surprises? (Good job Ricardo, Becca, and Jesse!)

Carlos & Mayra Chipi are up in the Philly area visiting Mayra's mom?

Franki & Yolanda Cruz will be up in FL for a few weeks. Franki claims it is to see his doctor, but we all know it is to golf.

David Deakin has presented two wonderful films that point to Intelligent Design behind the universe? Thanks DD!

Von DeLoach, the General, provided a rousing tribute to the late, great George Beverly Shea, by singing his signature hymn, "I'd Rather Have Jesus"?

Connie Estades is struggling with a roof collapse at the San Juan Public Library? (Hang in there Connie.)

Matt Golley is now a married man as he and Piper tied the knot in April? (They will be settling in the Dallas area this summer. So sad to see Matt go.)

There is a rumor that Rashel Krankovich and Brenda Gonzalez will be visiting the island this summer?

Rob Grosek is saving 2UC thousands of dollars in repairs to all of our closet doors in the classrooms? (Thanks Rob!)

Christopher Strong makes a delicious potato salad?

Jesse Sargent got a new Kindle for his 70th birthday?

Steve & Loida Spivak sponsored a work team from Alexandria, Virginia to complete a counseling center in a poor area of Dorado? (Way to go Spivaks!)

Dennis Gonzalez writes: As you know we returned from the USTA Mixed Doubles 3.5 championship where our team, including Pastor Bob & Christie, myself, and Amarilis, our team captain, came in 4th Nationally. Amarilis' other all-woman's team (that included Christie) just missed out on winning the women's 3.5 40 and over Caribbean championship last week. Amarilis and I are starting to walk in the afternoons and hope to embark on a running program. I already talked to John Alberts about training during our forthcoming Israel trip, so we will take our running shoes with us. Maybe we can convince the whole tour group about running around the Holy Land !! (I never run out of crazy ideas)



The McMurray's are on a cruise down the Rhine, visiting all the castles along the way?

Alisan Moran survived the Blitz in London during WWII?

Yadira de Jesus was recently back at the keyboard at 2UC. It sure was great to see her.

Joe Calcolli is living proof that you can't keep a good man down as he is back on his feet and coming to church? What an inspiration! Joe writes: Well here I am again. I'm back, but I have been, "back" so many times that I am afraid to say it again. Anyway, here I am again. I thank you all because, without the prayers of my brothers and sisters I would not be able to stand up against my trials. I talk a good game of being a brave fighter, a champion who always gets back up.



But truth be told I am but a whimpering child, that is longing to go home. Without the power of prayer, the length of time I have to share with you all would have been cut short a long time ago. But here I am again All of the aforementioned begets the question.. .Why Lord, why me?. What Lord, what for and what now?

Anita Rodriguez inspired our local Girl Scout troop to prepare the dessert for our most recent Heart to Heart ministry to the homeless? It was a great blessing for the homeless folk to receive real Girl Scout cookies.



Julio Rivera and our Outreach Ministry awarded thousands of dollars to many happy recipients who reach out to the physically needy and the spiritually lost.

Edith Perez' youngest son Gustavo got married last Saturday?! Congrats to them and to a very proud and happy mama!

Edith has also been very busy organizing and recruiting volunteers for this year's Athens VBS? This year's Athens VBS will be a wonderful journey with the Apostle Paul.... We will transform the Fellowship Hall and entire church into ancient Greece and we'll be dressed in accordance with the time and theme!

Ambar Soleil was the recipient of the Lion Award at her school, Fowlers Academy? This is the highest award in the school and it is given to the student who best exemplifies Christianity and living a God-fearing life!



Susan & Hector Pages spent Easter weekend in Atlanta, visiting with their son Hecti and his wife Nicole in their new home? Susan reports that there are plenty of rooms, enough it seems for a large family. Susan & Hector are happy about that prospect.

Their daughter Danielle recently visited Puerto Rico with her boyfriend Tommy. Danielle was able to spend some nice quality time with her grandparents and her aunt. Susan plans to visit Puerto Rico the end of May when they will attend their nephew's high school graduation. Susan is looking forward to visiting with her friends at Second Union.

Luis Alberto Rivera recently hosted an exhibition of mosaic works done by a group of Antilles High School students who have autism? Luis Alberto has been working with these students who displayed tremendous creativity and dedication to this endeavor. Luis Alberto, your work for the kingdom of God is truly a blessing to these students and to all who participated in this evening of celebration.



Melissa Garcia de la Neceda comes home on May 10th and has successfully completed her first year of college? She has loved the entire experience!

The acclaimed choral ensemble, Orpheón, recently performed to a packed house at 2UC? What a wonderful opportunity to hear beautiful voices and musical accompaniment.



Rob Valdés graduates from college on May 23rd? Congratulations and blessings in your job search!

Jorge (a.k.a. J.J.) has landed a great summer paid internship and will be staying in Dallas!

Risa Tobin's 3.0 tennis team won the PR Sectionals and will be traveling to Arizona for USTA Nationals! Congratulations to Risa and her teammates!



An additional sink was installed in the 2UC kitchen in order to comply with the requirements of the Dept. de Salud? We're now approved and ready to begin the Backpack program!

Joshua and Alex received athletic awards in an assembly at Nuestra Señora de Belen? Joshua received an award for volleyball and Alex for volleyball and basketball! Congratulations!





## Second Union Church *Prayer Walk*



**Date: Tuesday, May 21st, 2013**  
**Time: 7:00 pm–9:00 pm**

**Starting location: Second Union Church parking lot.**

**Objective: Worship God through Prayer & Songs  
in the Apolo Community around our church.**

*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10*



### *In Our Prayers*

Alfred Delbrey is undergoing treatment for bone cancer. Pray that the effects of the treatment would be effective and the side effects minimal.

Daisy Garcia is recovering from gall bladder surgery. Praise the Lord that the surgery could be performed laproscopically and she is hoping to be sent home today (Friday, May 3).

Joe Calcolli grows stronger each day. Continue to pray for him to regain full strength and mobility as he recovers.

Lesby Gil continues to suffer from various health concerns. May the Lord bless her with healing.

Becca Hoffman's mother is undergoing out-patient surgery for the removal of lymph nodes on Monday (May 6). Pray for peace for Becca and her mother and a successful surgery and full recovery.

Don Julio Rivera. Praise the Lord that his surgery was successful, and join us in praying for his full recovery and restoration of complete health.

Terry, a dear friend of Laurie Yost, underwent a successful mastectomy and is researching different treatment options. May she sense God's peace and guidance and we pray for her healing.

Carlos and Mayra Chipi and family in the passing of Carlos' mother, Doña Olga following a battle with cancer. May the Lord touch their hearts and lives with comfort and consolation.

Graduating seniors who are seeking jobs. May they seek the Lord's wisdom and guidance during the process, and may they find employment through which they can honor God.

The San Juan Community Library and their need for a new roof. Pray for God's provision. Peace for Connie.

## 2UC Sponsored Girl Scout Troop

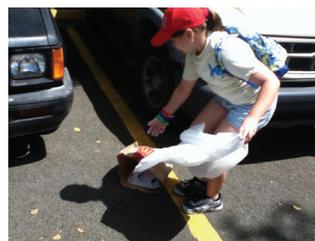
May  
2013



Girl Scout Troop 515 has jumped into 2013 with hearts for service. Our girls have a deep desire to help others. This past month they took the part of our "Promise" [make the world a better place] to heart. On April 14, we meet up in the church parking lot, armed with trash bags and gloves and set out to do just that. There was a deep sense of satisfaction when the trash bags were thrown into the dumpster.



On April 27, we gathered to help out 2UC's own Heart to Heart, and bake cookies for the homeless. We proceeded to crank out over 300 homemade chocolate chip cookies. The girls have the joy of helping others and I hope it is one lesson they will carry with them the rest of their lives.



## 2UCY Golf Tournament



On Saturday, April 20th we had our first golf tournament at Caguas Real. Twenty-four golfers participated in the event. Some of them had previous experience



(the very competitive ones) and others were just entering into the golfing world. However they all shared something in common - their willingness to contribute to the Home of Hopes cause. I want to express my gratitude to Pastor Bob and Jesse Sargeant for trusting in this project and for their loyal support. I am also grateful to Becca for helping us with the logistics and planning.



To the sponsors, Edwin Pérez, Puerto Rico Supply, PSV, SUBWAY, SEARS, Hotel Intercontinental, Law Firm Gervitz Carbonell, Ing. Daniel Defendini and Thomas Von Hildebrandt, thank-you for investing in God's Kingdom, and to the team of young people present who helped and served in all that was needed. I cannot forget to thank Daisy and Ana Victoria for accompanying us on tournament day, for their attitude of cooperation and service and for being the welcoming cheerleaders for the players. I also thank Ana Victoria for being the event photographer. (For more photos, see page 8)



7 May  
2013

# 2UCY Golf Tournament

# Second Union Church

