

# New Lifer News



## Dear New Life Family

by Bob See

Last week in our services and then again in our small groups we looked at the concept of "the Bridge" - a way of explaining to people how God sent Jesus to be our bridge back to Him. I hope that somewhere in the midst of those discussions you felt, again, the wonder of salvation that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. It really is amazing grace!

And I hope the emphasis on our need for Christ to save us, the emphasis on Jesus being our only hope for eternal life, has awakened, in you, a fresh commitment to impact the people in your life who don't trust and follow Jesus. When we believe in Christ we will enjoy life forever in heaven, and yet our opportunity to introduce others to Jesus can only happen in the short span of our life here on earth. Only now, in this life, do we have the chance to share concepts like the bridge with someone who is still on the other side of the chasm—still separated from God by their sin and unbelief.

I encourage you to pray for God to give you an opportunity this month to share the Bridge illustration with someone. I am personally praying that God will give me the chance at least once in the month of May, outside of "church," to share the Bridge with someone. I've got a hunch God will answer those kind of prayers since the desire of His heart is for the lost to be found, for the prodigals to come home, and for many to "cross over from death to life" (John 5:24).

Write me with any stories you have of sharing the Bridge with others ([bobsee@newlifeonline.org](mailto:bobsee@newlifeonline.org)).

Join us Thursday, May 6 at 12:00 Noon

## 2010 National Day of Prayer

at the Peoria County Courthouse

*The 59th Annual National Day of Prayer will take place Thursday, May 6, 2010. Millions will unite in prayer at thousands of events from coast to coast. The theme for this coming year is "Prayer for Such a Time as This," and is based on the verse from Nahum 1:7 which states: "The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him."*

*The event will feature prayer from community leaders, at time of worship and intercession, and group prayer, ending about 1:00 p.m. We encourage everyone who can, to come out for this time of prayer.*

# 34 Short

by Jason Morris

**Thirty-four. That's the number of volunteers that we currently need to fill the gaps in weekend worship.** As I type that number it sounds like an awful lot, but I suppose the real nature of the need depends on how you look at it. After all, it's not like we're canceling services due to a shortage of help, and as far as I know no one has had a nervous breakdown on Sunday morning. The fact is we're managing – maybe even thriving. But when I was recently asked to come up with a list of available serving opportunities in my area of ministry, I made a list and counted the spots. Thirty-four was the total.

For me, thirty-four represents a commitment to NOT burning people out. Generally when I seek someone to serve in a certain role, I describe the need and then ask "how often would you want to serve?" The answer varies depending upon what position I'm asking the person to fill and the amount of margin in the volunteer's life. Let's say I need a volunteer video editor. At 30 hours a project, asking the volunteer to edit more than one project per quarter is too much. It may even be too much to ask for one editing project every six months. If I'm asking someone to run lights or sound, probably once a month is doable.

Once I get a feel for what the person is willing to do, I try hard to honor his/her requested time commitment. Right now, our sound technicians and visual technicians usually serve once a month. We have worship ministry members at New Life Central that sing or play as often as every other week, giving two to three hours on Thursday nights and four to five hours on Sunday mornings. Our Gathering producers serve for two to three hours every third Sunday, plus occasional meetings with me. Each role requires a different level of commitment, which is what's so great about the number thirty-four.

That's thirty-four different possibilities that can be explored to fit your schedule. It doesn't matter if you've got four hours a week or four hours a month. If one role doesn't line up with what you can give, there are thirty-three others that just might. The gaps are there, but so are the people. It's just a process of getting the right folks in the right spots at the right commitment level.

**Would you consider getting more information on how to contribute to our weekend worship experience?** Just contact the office and talk to Teresa Bassett, Kurt Smith, or me. It's possible that you could be the one to drop thirty-four down to thirty-three.