

=THE CROAKER=

THE VOICE OF AVEN†URA

Volume 32- Issue #7

July 2012

President's Letter:

Greetings from your new president!

First off I would like to say **thank you** to our last president Donna for all she has done for Aventura in the past two years. Aventura would not be the same without her energy and enthusiasm!

A lot has changed from when I was a guest on Aventura weekend #19. One thing has not changed much, and that is that **I AM NOT a morning person!** I have gotten a little better after becoming a father but it is still hard to get up for 6:30am and get out of the door for 7:10. I was talking to a friend of mine who has the same problem. I was telling him how I go to Block Island for a week of vacation each year. I have to be at the boat in RI for 9:00 am, so that means that I have to be up at 4:30am and out the door no later than 5. That is no problem for me. I walk up before the alarm stops and am out of bed. Now, **I should be that pumped to get to know God** that I cannot wait for quiet time with my Lord, but I am not. It does not have to be in the morning, it can be anytime. I had a different friend of mine tell me that if he would spend even ½ the time/energy he spent getting a run in, and used that as quiet time with the Lord he would spend at least two hours a week with the Lord.

Now this is not to shame you into spending more time with God, it is to tell you what was laid on my heart. Now here is what I am asking from you, to **spend 35 minutes a week with the Lord**. Read the Bible, listen to praise songs, or just spend time in His presence. This works out to **5 minutes a day**. That is not too hard to do: you can spend more time just trying to get a seat at TwinCo! (And this does not have to be the only time you spend with God, but if you start with the 5 minutes, you may find you want to continue further.)

In case you need help in starting your devotional times, here are a few links to online daily devotionals.

www.oddb.org/

<http://devotional.upperroom.org/>

<http://www.christianity.com/Devotionals/?gclid=COTUm6z0g7ECFcXe4AadvXFkFA>

I will be praying for each of you for the next month. Praise the Lord!

Matt Johnson

Aventura President

Co-ordinator's Letter:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-13

Dear Aventura community,

Will you join with me in prayer for the team that is forming, for Art and me as we meet and plan, and for hearts to be open to sponsorship? I have heard of about **5 guests** that may be going on the weekend, but we can't count them until we have the applications in hand. We also need to have at least **10 guests** for the weekend to be a go. I have handed out **2 applications**. Please pray that they their hearts would be open.

The team is coming along, but I have **4 positions** that still need to be filled. If you feel the Lord leading you to serve on team or to help out in any way, please let me know! Team meetings start **August 24th**.

Blessings,

Laura Roehl

Aventura #30 Weekend Co-ordinator

TEAM LIST:

Spiritual Director – Rev. Doreen Gibbons

Spiritual Director – Mike Eldred

Coordinator – Laura Roehl

Chief Auxiliary – Arthur Richards Jr.

Assistant Chief – Rae LePine?

Kitchen Auxiliary – (praying)

Break Auxiliary – Ethan Hill

General Auxiliary – ?

Rollo Room Auxiliary – Chad Fairclough

Chapel Auxiliary – Molly Inman

Palanca Auxiliary – ?

Music Director – Katie Sosnicki

Self-Awareness – Sara LePine

People of God – Andrew Bodnar

Call to Holiness – Mikayla Kallsen

Knowing is Loving – Stephen Johnson

Pass It On – Dave Zwart

Beyond the Weekend – Emily Lamy

Table Leader – Greg Gibbons

Table Leader – Dennis Redline

Table Leader/Music– Glenn Hafele

Table Leader /Music– Sandy Miller

Table Leader – Barb Clavette

Table Leader – (praying)

Upcoming Reunions and Other Dates:

Please give some thought to hosting a reunion at your church.

July Reunion:

Saturday, July 21, Rebekah Miller's house: 287 Main St. N.
in Bethlehem, CT: 3:00pm

Saturday, July 28, 87 E River Rd., Riverton, CT: 2:00 pm.
(Combined Tres Dias/Aventura Secuela/Reunion)

Saturday, August 24, Arthur Richards House 235 Newton Rd,
Northfield, CT 06778: 3:00 pm

Stuff to Note:

- For anyone interested, **Dennis Redline** and **Rachel LePine** are looking for Aventurites who are willing to act as voice actors to play in an audio adaptation of Dennis' book! We also need instruments to record music. Call **203-573-1780** or **203-819-3652** if you'd like to know more. =)

Prayer Requests:

Please feel free to send prayer requests to our 'prayistas' Barb Clavette (JEClavette.at.snet.net or 482-0172) and Sandy Miller (SanJeanM.at.AOL.com or 482-5601) and they will pass the appropriate ones along to the Croaker to be listed here. Be sure to let them know if you wish to remain anonymous or if you don't want the prayer published at all.

Birthdays:

14- Chris Tillow (#27)

15- Liam Dowling (#28)

24- Abby Roberg (#28)

Web Stuff to Note:

Art Richards and Rachel LePine are currently redesigning the Aventura site. Let us know what you'd like to see on the new site by messaging us on FaceBook!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/163216490364454/>

Servants of Aventura:

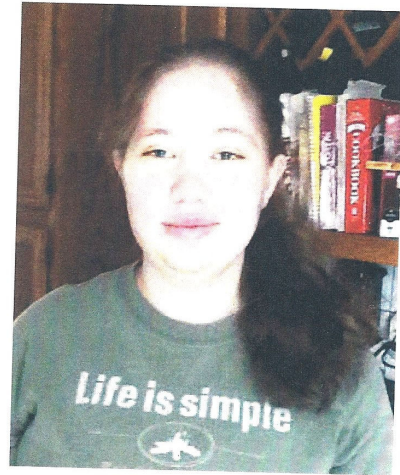
<http://www.aventuract.com/>

<u>Aventura Officers</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>
President	email Donna DeMarest	(203) 596-9922
Vice President	email Matt Johnson	(203) 206-4935
Treasurer	email Amanda Johnson	(860) 489-9606
Corresponding Secretary	email Stephanie Griffin	
Recording Secretary	email Brittany Petitti	
Publications	email Rachel LePine	(203) 573-1780
Weekend	email Sandy Miller and the Bumpy Lumps	
Information & Registration	email Art Richards Jr.	860-307-4806
Reunions	email Tori Clark	
Palanca	email	
Prayista	email Barb Clavette	(860) 482-0172
	email Sandy Miller	(860) 482-5601

- For information on Aventura contact **Art Richards** at Registration@AventuraCT.com or call **(860)-307-4806**.
- To put something into the *Croaker* email **Rachel LePine** at Publications@AventuraCT.com or mhbaggins@sbcglobal.net.
- Follow us on **Twitter** by clicking here - [@AventuraCT](https://twitter.com/AventuraCT)
- For people who have been on an Aventura weekend, join the AventuraCT [Facebook](#) group.

Dear Family and Friends,

Some of you know that I have felt God calling me to Asia. I've been there once before, in the summer of 2009, and it was a time of great spiritual growth for me. It was a tremendous blessing to have all of your prayers supporting me there. I could literally feel your prayers at times, as God miraculously worked out details and melted away obstacles that arose in opposition to the work He desired to do there. I received an abundant amount of grace to handle situations and do things that I know I could not have done except through the Spirit, in answer to your prayers. Thank you for standing with me in that work.



Now I would like to ask you to do the same again. At the end of this semester, I will hopefully have an opportunity to serve in Asia again for 30 days, possibly more. I have recently been learning a lot about the power and importance of intercessory prayer, so I do not want to venture on such an undertaking without being backed by prayer support. I can't do this on my own; I need you to wrestle in prayer for me against the powers of darkness. Please prayerfully consider committing to pray for me on a regular basis for the next few months as I seek to follow God's leading in my life.

Unfortunately, because of the delicacy of political situations, I can't give details about where I am going or what I will be doing, but I will most likely be helping with English camps, college student/youth ministry, and in whatever other ways the local believers can find for me to help the local church. The local church said that they will not have anything useful for me to do until their school year is over at the end of June, so until then, I will be volunteering somewhere in Europe.

Here are some prayer requests (these are just bullet points; if you want more details, you can read the note appended to the main letter):

- Pray for me to be able to get a visa.
- Pray against discouragement and depression.
- Pray for me to learn the language and understand the culture.
- Pray for me to be a blessing to the people already working there, rather than a hindrance.
- Pray for the unity of the believers.
- Pray for protection and traveling mercies.
- Pray for me to have the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for the government of the country.
- Pray for the protection, encouragement, and emboldening of the national believers.
- Pray that God will prepare the hearts of the unbelievers and draw them to Himself.
- Pray for me to have the necessary finances.

At this time it is hard to tell exactly how much this trip will cost, but from the figures I have right now, it looks like the Lord will need to provide at least \$2000 for me to make this trip. I ask you to prayerfully consider helping to support me financially. If you feel the Lord leading you to do so, please send any financial support to Calvary Chapel Southbury and mark it clearly "Brittany - Trip to Asia."

Thank you so much for everything, I love you guys! God bless you!
Your sister in Christ,
Brittany Codella

Notes on Prayer Points:

- Pray for me to be able to get a visa. Pray for me and the people here to have wisdom and discernment to know how to properly fill out all the paperwork without jeopardizing the work that is already going on in Asia. Pray for me to find grace and favor in the eyes of the embassy here in Hungary and the government of the country.
- Pray against discouragement and depression. Many of the missionaries here have attested to the fact that one of the first ways the enemy attacks on the field is through discouragement and depression, and I want to be on guard against that, as I have been through depression before and probably have a propensity towards it.
- Pray for me to learn the language and understand the culture.
- Pray for me to be a blessing and a help to the people already working there, and that I will not get in their way or cause problems through my inexperience. Pray that I will keep a humble attitude and that I will be willing to learn from others. Pray against any critical spirit, and pray for the unity of the believers there.
- Pray for protection and traveling mercies, that I will be able to find my way through all the airports and make flights on time, and that there will not be any hold-ups or problems with security/customs. Pray that my luggage will make it to and from Asia with me and not get misplaced. Pray for me to make good decisions about what travel arrangements to make.
- Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and for wisdom, that He will direct my steps and show me what to do. Pray that He would continue to show me what He wants me to do with my life. Pray that I will be a light and a witness and that I will have opportunity to share the gospel.
- Pray for the government of the country, that they will be favorably disposed towards the Christians and for God to guide their decisions, whether they are aware of His leading or not.
- Pray for the national believers, for protection, and boldness, and freedom from anxiety and fear. Pray that there will be able to be more openness in the church.
- Pray for the people I will come in contact with who are not believers, that God would stir their hearts and that they would be drawn to Him and find Him. Pray that I will be able to point people to Him, and not myself, and that He will get all the glory.
- Pray for me to have the necessary finances to go, and to live there when I get there. Pray for me to have wisdom in handling finances, and to be frugal.