



The Voice of  AVENTURA

THE CROAKER

Volume 36, Issue #3

President's Letter:

Hello Folks,

I've been thinking about my purpose lately. As someone who's unemployed and out of school, my days generally focus around finding a job and working on household chores. The days blend into each other and you feel like the world is moving around you but you're lost in this boring routine. With all of this free time I've been trying to figure out God's purpose for my life and after many rejections by potential employers you start to doubt yourself. Self-Doubt is crippling. It freezes you in fear; you begin to question every decision you've ever made or will make. It keeps you from moving forward, isolating you in the fear of not knowing what the right decision is. In the midst of my mini-crisis I looked for a devotional to calm my nerves and found this:

When you feel inadequate, remember God says: You are CHOSEN.

"You are my witnesses," declares the Lord, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he" (Isa. 43:10).

When you feel afraid, remember God says: You are REDEEMED.

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine" (Isa. 43:1).

When you feel unloved, God says: You are LOVED.

"You are precious and honored in my sight, and . . . I love you" (Isa. 43:4).

When you feel forgotten, God says: You are REMEMBERED.

"See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands" (Isa. 49:16).

When you feel insecure, God says: You are SECURE.

"Let the beloved of the Lord rest secure in him, for he shields him all day long, and the one the Lord loves rests between his shoulders" (Deut. 33:12).

When you feel unable or unstable, God says: You are ABLE.

"The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights" (Hab. 3:19).

When you feel worthless, God says: You are CALLED.

"You are a chosen [woman], a royal [priest], a holy [daughter], God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Pet. 2:9).

If you're ever feeling lost and alone, look to these scriptures and you that you are wanted, adored and safe.

Emily Lamy

Reunion Report:

Much fun and fellowship was had at 1st Congregational of Thomaston last month as we caught up with friends over Bananagrams, Go Fish, Pick Up Sticks and (of course) food!! Thanks to Kristina Roaix for the heartfelt talk she gave regarding recent events in her life that while they seemed bad, God brought good out of them. Hope you can all come to the March Reunion at Pleasant Valley UMC (right near the Drive In). Amanda J.

Upcoming Reunions and Other Dates:

March Reunion:

Saturday, March 5, 6:30pm Assembly Meeting, and 7 PM Reunion
Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church
93 River Rd, Barkhamsted, Connecticut 06063

Prayer Requests:

Please join me in praying for the #44 Evansville Boy's and Girl's Chrysalis Flight in IN, March 4-6.

Please feel free to send prayer requests to our 'prayistas':

Barb Clavette (JEClavette@snet.net or 482-0172)
Sandy Miller (SanJeanM@AOL.com or 482-5601)

They will pass the appropriate ones along to the Croaker to be listed here and send out emails to the prayer chain. Be sure to let them know if you wish to remain anonymous or if you don't want the prayer published at all.

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Miscellany:

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To put something into the Croaker, email Amanda Johnson at groveramanda@hotmail.com.
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