



The Voice of AVENTURA

THE CROAKER

Volume 33, Issue #7

President's Letter:

Dear Aventura Community, It is that time again, where it is the change of season. Where summer is behind us and fall and winter are ahead of us. That means that the Aventura weekend is going to be here soon. I ask that you will pray for the guests who will be making this weekend, as well as for the team who are working to put the weekend together.

The other day I heard about the 400 million dollar jackpot for Powerball, and I thought of what I would do if I had all of that money. Then I thought about what I have already, a good place to live, food, and all of the other things that I have, and I wanted to thank God for all that He has blessed me with. I can be happy with the 'little' I have. Next time you start to think about what you could do with a Jackpot, think instead about what you do have and give thanks.

Hope to see you at the Palanca Party/Assembly Meeting/Reunion this coming Saturday.

Matt J

Coordinator's Letter:

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3: 17

Most of you know I have been an avid runner for many years. What you probably don't know, is one of my favorite places to run is the Wigwam reservoir, just up the road from my home. I have been running that dirt road for about 20 years. Back in the nineties there was a runner about the same age as me who was killed accidentally by a hunter on that same dirt road. In memory of him his family erected a small stone monument with his name and his birth and death dates. Even though I never knew or met this man, his death, doing what we both loved, had an emotional impact on me. I would always look at his monument as I ran by it near the trail head and think of what he was like. I wondered if he had a family, kids, pets, etc. At some point during the course of those runs I decided rather than think about his background I would start lifting his family up in prayer. For years I continued to do that as I passed by his memorial.

One day as I began my run I noticed a woman, a young child and a man standing not too far away from the stone memorial. As I approached, it appeared that the man was troubled and the woman, who I assumed was his wife seemed to be comforting him. My first thought was that he was a relative or friend of the man whose memorial they were standing near. The thought came into my head (actually I believe it was God who placed it there) that I should stop and ask if he needed help and offer to pray for him. Sadly the calculating/logical side of me won the agreement that took place in a matter of seconds as I got closer. You know the drill, "What are the chances of this man being a friend or relative of the deceased runner or the often used "How will they respond if I ask them. They will probably think I am some kind of weirdo." So before I knew it, they were all behind me and the opportunity had passed. For a while I kicked myself for missing this chance to be a witness for Christ. I continued to run past that monument often and every time I did that missed opportunity haunted me. I began to realize that because of my disobedience to what I know God was calling me to do someone missed the blessing God had for them. God wanted to use me to touch the heart of someone. Whether or not they actually knew that runner was really insignificant. God wanted to use me to pour His blessing into their lives. I realized also that I too missed what would have been a great blessing by bringing Christ into the life of another. In fact it wasn't just the distraught looking man who God would have touched; there were 2 others beside him that would have received that blessing. Many times God's plans are bigger than what we perceive in the immediate.

So why am I sharing this missed opportunity with you. Simply for this reason: You also have before you an opportunity to bring Christ into the life of another. The blessing that they will receive is more than you can even imagine. The Aventura weekend will be Oct 11th to the 13th and in your social circle are teens you know who would be blessed to be on this weekend. There are those in your life right now who need to renew or come to faith in Christ. This weekend is the place where God can make that happen. The question is will you be obedient to God's call to sponsor those teens on this powerful weekend? It took me many years to finally put this missed opportunity behind me and move on. As much as I wish I could go back, I know that I cannot relive that situation. I would ask that each of you seek out the Lord's will regarding who He is calling you to sponsor. When you hear that call from God don't try to reason your way through it. Don't overanalyze the potentials and most importantly don't run past the opportunity. In the words of Nike, "Just Do It!"

Thank you so much for your prayers and support.

In His Service,

Your Brother in Christ,

Pleas Pray for our Team

Becky	Bridges
Teri	Campanelli
Steve	Canciani
Katie	Clyma
Ed	Downs
Abi	Eveland
Abi	Eveland
Terry	Fredlund
Sue	Fredlund
Sue	Fredlund
Greg	Gibbons
Doreen	Gibbons
Stephen	Johnson
Mikayla	Kallsen
Emily	Lamy
Sara	Lepine
Amanda	Morse
Scott	Morse
Dennis	Redline
Laura	Roehl
Casey	Saade

And we have 6 Guests, pray for them and the rest to come.

Upcoming Reunions and Other Dates:

September Reunion:

Saturday, September 28,

3pm palanca party followed by 6:30pm assembly meeting at First Congregational Church, Torrington

Please consider bringing a favorite snack or soda to share! ☺

Birthdays:

Robby Emmons	August 11
Alli Olivieri	August 16
Casey Saade	August 22
Abi Eveland	August 26

Prayer Requests:

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.

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](#)

Servants of Aventura:

President Matt Johnson (203) 206-4935

Vice President Stephen Johnson

Treasurer Amanda Morse

Corresponding Secretary Amanda Johnson (860) 489-9606

Recording Secretary Sara LePine (860) 417 6339

Publications Rachel LePine (203) 217 9791

Information & Registration Art Richards Jr. (860) 307-4806

Reunions Sandy Miller (860) 482-560

Prayista Barb Clavette (860) 482-0172

Sandy Miller (860) 482-5601

Miscellany:

- 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 [@AventuraCT](https://twitter.com/AventuraCT)
- For people who have been on an Aventura weekend, join AventuraCT on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/AventuraCT)!