

# The Outer Leaf

Live Oaks  
Community Church

Volume 5, Issue 2

July 2008

*"Leading edge news and views of the ministries of Live Oaks Community Church"*

## **Responsibilities While On The Road... "Remain In Me"**

I hope your summer has started off well! As you enjoy the warm (wet) weather, traveling for vacation and activities, and a different pace, I want to encourage you to "remain" in certain spiritual disciplines, principles and values to ensure that you get the most out of this summer season...

Jesus said, "Remain in Me, and I will remain in you." (John 15:4). To "remain" is "to stay somewhere physically - to remain somewhere and with someone; to stay somewhere and by someone." What does the Bible tell us to remain in as we seek to remain in Jesus? Here is just a partial list...

John 15:4 - tells us to take the initiative to remain in Jesus and He will remain in us.

John: 15:4 - Jesus states that for us to bear fruit we must remain in Him.

John: 15:7 - Jesus tells us that remaining in Him leads to requests and desires being fulfilled.

John: 15:9 - Christ commands us to remain in His love.

Acts 11:23 - encourages us to remain true to the Lord with all our hearts.

Acts 14:22 - encourages us to remain true to the faith no matter the circumstances.

Romans 13:8 - instructs us to let no debt remain outstanding!

1 Corinthians 7:24 - states, "Brothers, each man, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation God called him to." We are responsible to stay in God's hands!

Colossians 3:16 - tells us to "let the Word of Christ dwell (remain) in you richly" as you share it with others.

1 John: 2:24 - commands us to "see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father."

1 John: 3:14 - informs us, "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death."

Revelation 2:13 b - we are to remain true to Jesus name.

Revelation 14:12 - we are to remain faithful to Jesus.

Finally, Revelation 3:2 exhorts us to "Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die..." The time is now to act on the Lords command to strengthen what remains and respond to His invitation to "remain in Me."

In our goal to "remain in Jesus" we must be willing to remain wherever or with whomever for however long we need to be in Jesus will and see His will accomplished in us and in others. I can tell you that typically steak must remain in a marinade for a minimum of 8 hours and a maximum of 24 hours to get the desired result. Fish, which is less fibrous and tough, takes much less time (2-4 hours). However, only you and the Holy Spirit can know how long you must remain in a certain spiritual discipline to bear fruit... how long you must remain in your job, neighborhood or ministry to accomplish God's will in you and others... how long you must remain in prayer or in God's word to receive the blessing and insight you need...



God is not going to make you get up and come to church every Sunday, read your Bible and pray every day - He is not going to make you take any steps necessary for a disciple. Why? That is your part! As a disciple it is your part to respond to His leadership and invitations and step up to your responsibilities to remain! It is our responsibility to step up and fulfill the mission Jesus began. Are you remaining? Are you stepping up to your responsibilities to remain - even in the summer and on vacation?

Seeking to remain,

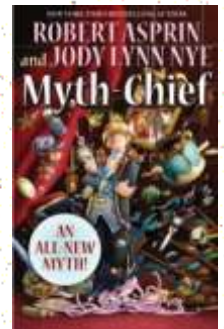
Pastor Kelley

## WHAT'S ON YOUR NIGHTSTAND??

Jan Burt has suggested doing book reviews by different members of LOCC for the newsletter. If you have a great book that you would like to answer a few questions for, please see Jan. This month, we will look on Chris & Janette Dillon's nightstands to see what they have been reading.

### 1. What are you reading?

- Chris —I just finished reading Myth-Chief (book 17 in the Myth series).
- Janette—I am currently reading The Yada Yada Prayer Group series by Neta Jackson. I'm currently on book 5 of 7.



### 2. What do you like about this book?

- Chris —Skeeve and Aahz are back together again to see who will be the leader of M.Y.T.H. Inc. And there is a moral to the story: Working together and compromise can solve problems. If you like science fiction and fantasy, you might like this series. They are funny and are appropriate for all ages. Where else can you read about the poker player Sen-Sen Ante Kid? (say it real fast).
- Janette—I typically prefer non-fiction books, but while this series is Christian fiction, there is still a lot of truth that comes out of it. It's about a group of women who attend a conference together and end up close friends. It's nice to read about how other Christian friends get through tough times together, as well as celebrate the good times together. There have been many times while reading the book that it's made me realize I need to look at things differently and/or learn to pray differently for specific needs.

### 3. What do you dislike about this book?

- Chris —The books starting going downhill after the author took a break from writing and then returned with a coauthor. I am hoping that the next few books will get better now that the characters Aahz and Skeeve are working together again. (Skeeve had left the group to study).
- Janette—Not much to dislike about these books, other than each book is around 400 pages so it's a lot of reading to complete the series, but I don't think you'll be disappointed should you decide to pick book 1 up and start reading it!



### 4. Would you be willing to loan this book to other LOCC members to read?

- Chris — I have the whole series and am willing to loan them out. (P.S. Speaking of books, if you like medieval fantasy books, ask me about what book I'm waiting for this summer).
- Janette—I was loaned the first two books, and I've gotten all the others from the public library, so I don't have them to loan out. I'd be happy to teach you how to request them online if you don't already know how though — what a great service provided by the libraries!!

---

## VBS WAS GREAT!!

We had another great Vacation Bible School this year. We had between 45-50 kids each night, along with about 50 workers. It takes EACH one of you — a huge thanks to all who helped, no matter how small or big your job was!! The kids collected \$518.43 for the offering, which will be divided between Austin & Dawn Smith, our KU Missionaries, and Element 26. GREAT JOB, kids!! Lastly — we wish to thank Dave & Jeri Carson for heading our VBS once again. You guys are such a blessing and we appreciate your hard work!!

Please be praying for the children that attended this year's VBS — both LOCC members as well as those that were visiting. There seemed to be some good conversations and connections with certain kids and we would love to have our VBS be the reason they either came to accept the Lord, and/or start attending our church!