

The newsletter of the Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis

April 2003

WEDDING INVITATION

Tara Dawn DeFranco and Ian Nathanael Leslie request the honor of your presence at the celebration of our

> marriage at

Clovis Memorial United Methodist Church 1726 Pollasky, Clovis, California

on

Saturday, May 3rd, 2003 at 2 p.m. followed by

refreshments and May Merriment R.S.V.P.

Miss Tara DeFranco 2277 Sample Avenue Clovis, CA 93611

We would appreciate if you could please sign the wedding RSVP list located in the church office or alternatively, e-mail Tara with your name and how many people from your family are coming.

E-mail:

MediaevalBaebeLadyTara@hotmail.com

On behalf of the poor whom we serve at Poverello House, I would like to thank you for your gift of \$321 received on February 24, 2003. Through the generosity of people like you, Poverello House is able to provide tangible services such as food, medical care, day shelter and residential recovery. Your generosity allows us to be a source of grace, hope and change in the lives and spirits of all who come our way.

Jim Connel, Executive Director Poverello House

Dear Church Family
Thank you so much for your
loving kindness in my time of
distress. Your cards, phone
calls, food, taking me to the
doctor and especially your
prayers really helped. I'm
much better but will be a while
before I can be back to church.
Keep the prayers going! Love,
Novelle Rogers

UNITED METHODIST NEWS SERVICE

To keep on top of United Methodist Church news, you need the world at your fingertips. That's where we come in. We're United Methodist News Service, the church's official news agency. Global, local and agency news, commentaries, features, photos and more!!! umns.umc.org (615) 742-5470.

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2004 ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN FRESNO

The Annual California Nevada
Conference session of the United Methodist
Church will be held here in Fresno in June of
2004 at the convention center. We will need
many local volunteers to host generally over
1200 people on the floor plus volunteers,
including over 400 lay members plus clergy
who will be in attendance. This will be a
wonderful opportunity for us to participate in
the worship services, including conference
Sunday and special inspirational evening events
of the conference, and to witness the legislative
work of the members on the conference floor
from the visitor's section.

Volunteers are needed for manning registration tables, setting up display tables, arranging meals for groups, serving as pages (who distribute materials during plenary sessions) on the floor of the conference etc. Let Jean Hill or Max Cannon, our Lay Members, or Pastor Denice know if you would like to help. District Superintendent Vickie Healy is coordinating our organization of local volunteers.

MINISTRY OPENING IN FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

Would you enjoy coordinating fellowship events for the congregation? Events such as an evening potluck, the Advent Dinner, Fat Tuesday/Ash Wednesday Dinner, a church picnic, etc.? If so please speak with Pastor Denice. We have the position of Fellowship Activities Coordinator open for 2003.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Girl Scout Troop 740 will serve breakfast on Saturday, May 10, 2003. Proceeds will be used to repair the bridge at camp El-O-Win and to replace the rug in the social hall. Tickets are available from the Gonzalez Family and are \$7 per person. Get your tickets today!

PSALM 23

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

That's Relationship!

I SHALL NOT WANT

That's supply!

HE MAKETH ME TO LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES

That's rest!

HE RESTORETH MY SOUL

That's Healing!

HE LEADETH ME IN THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

That's Guidance!

FOR HIS NAME SAKE

That's Purpose!

YEA, THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH

That's Testing!

I WILL FEAR NO EVIL

That's Protection!

FOR THOU ART WITH ME

That's Faithfulness!

THY ROD AND THY STAFF, THEY COMFORT ME

That's Discipline!

THOUGH PREPAREST A TABLE BEFORE ME IN THE PRESENCE OF MINE ENEMIES

That's Hope!

THOU ANOINTEST MY HEAD WITH OIL

That's Consecration!

MY CUP RUNNETH OVER

That's Abundance!

SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY SHALL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE

That's Blessing!

AND I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

That's Security!

FOREVER

That's Eternity!

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN' ON A SUMMERS DAY!

Camping at Pismo beach anyone? No, not in the middle of winter—some balmy summer day! If that sounds pleasant to you, share your interest with Roger Pachelbell. We're making plans!

Congregational Life

News of the church life and the groups that meet for fellowship and support.

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:30

LAY MINISTRIES TEAM TO MEET AND BEGIN NEW WORK

The Lay Ministries Team (formerly known as the Nominations Committee before General Conference change in 2002) will meet Wednesday, April 16 in the Library at 7:00 p.m. to begin composing Ministry Task Descriptions for all of the ministry opportunities here at MUMC. This will be a big but very important job. As you know, we surveyed a majority of the congregation two years ago for spiritual gifts. Barbara Woodward is now entering those gifts into the computer so we can pull out names of people whose gifts may fit a particular ministry need. This will assist us in connecting folks with service opportunities that will grow them as they grow the ministry of the church.

Connecting folks with ministry is a two way street: We also need to let folks know what ministries are available and what they are all about. Creating Ministry Task Descriptions will be a giant step forward in this process. Eventually we hope to have these entered into the computer as well so that when someone says, "I feel God calling me to work with children's ministries" we can print a computer list of the ministry opportunities available in our church AND what is entailed in each one. Providing mentoring or appropriate orientation and training will be an important part of this process as we seek to equip disciples.

Equipping each Christian for ministry is the work of the church. Serving Christ in the world is the work of every Christian! If you feel God

calling you to be a part of this process please join us!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

United Methodist Women's News Board meeting - April 7, 9 am, Library Regular meeting - April 15, 10 am, Social Hall Speaker: Jean Hill Subject: Easter Luncheon served by Board members as a "thank you" for attending. No need for your own service.

Red Bird - April 9, 9:30 am, library Wesley Group - April 23, 1 pm, Social Hall

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Church Women United is offering scholarships for \$500 to high school Seniors and college-level students. Check forms in office for details. Deadline is April 15, 2003. For more information, contact Loretta White.

UNITED METHODIST MEN NEWS from Mathai, Parel

Jeff Witte, Assistant City Manager for City of Clovis, was the speaker at United Methodist Men's Breakfast meeting on March 1, 2003. He gave a power-point presentation on the general plan of the city.

Next UMM meeting will be held at 8:00AM, Saturday, April 5. The Rev. George Elgin will present a short history of the Christian movement--from A. D. 1st century to 21st century. This is an opportunity for you to have your questions about the history of our faith answered. All men at MUMC are invited.

THRIFT SHOP NEWS by Bev Daly We have received some very nice donations. Stop in and find a treasure.

Sales at the Thrift Shop for March were \$543.41. Our April workdays are Tues. April 22 and Tues April 29. We will be open April 4, 5 and May 2 & 3.

JOIN THE BOUTIQUE GROUP

Who? Anyone who likes to craft, sew, quilt, crochet, knit, ANY kind of crafting.

WHAT? Do your own thing or participate in group projects.

HOW? We offer instruction, patterns, ideas, encouragement, materials, and Friendship.

WHEN? 9:00-11:30* Come every Wednesday or as often as you can. *(We turn into the "out to Lunch Bunch" at 11:30).

WHERE? Church Social Hall

WHY? To make articles to sell at the annual November boutique, a major fund-raiser for MUMC.

We would LOVE to have you.

For information, contact Barbara Nielson or Bev Daly

FEBRUARY INCOME

Our total income for February was \$15,870.20. This includes about \$900 given for designated purposes such as the Souper Bowl fund-raisers, Pendergrass Memorial fountain upkeep, Hugh Carter memorial and pastoral benevolences. Income received for our budget is at about 89% of the anticipated amount for January and February. We are still receiving new pledges, which are augmenting under-funded programs. Detailed figures on income are filed in the 2003 Budget & Finance Information binder on the counter in the office.

Care Ministries

Giving Special Care to Others

NEED A RIDE?

Clovis Roundup bus service is available on Sundays to bring you to church. You must call 324-2760 by 5:00 p.m. on Friday for your reservation. The one-way cost is only \$1

PRAYER SERVICE NOTIFICATION

We thank Janet Bonzo our new Care Cluster Coordinator for making an effort to contact all of our shepherds on very short notice to alert the congregation to the Prayer Service on Tuesday evening as our nation went to war. We are still not doing a very good job of using ALL the communication resources at our disposal such as our Web site and our email. We will continue to work on this. Communication is our priority this year.

JOIN STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE - SPRC

The Staff Parish Relations meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7:30 pm in the library. The beginning of the meeting is open for any member of the congregation or staff to share affirmations or concerns. The committee will affirm their presence, ask questions and clarify to be sure the concern was heard correctly. The member will be thanked and then excused and the committee will discuss the concern and get back to the person and share regarding any results. Anonymous concerns will not be accepted. The members of this committee include: Dick Gist, Jim McClanahan, LaDonna Snow, Bonnie Harkins, Lynette Jordan, Barbara Nielson, Eleanor Knudsen, and Don Haulman.

THE SPECIAL FRIENDS TEAM

Eight members of our Special Friends Team met March 3 and reported 21 home and hospital visits, 7 cards sent and one phone call made in the preceding 3 weeks. We reviewed "A guide Through Grief" and prayed for the 19 Special Friends and 18 watch list persons. We planned who would visit whom in the coming month, prayed for those facing surgery and announced our April Meting on the 8th. Come and check us out. Contact Laurie Hill, chairman.

SPECIAL FRIENDS TEAM ROSTER

Below is the list of those serving on our Special Friends Team as of March 2003 who are providing Christian Caregiving: Laurence Hill, Chair; Denice Leslie, Pastor; Minnie Eller, Secretary; Bob Anderson, Max Cannon, Dee Carr, Pat Frey, Evelyn Haulman, Pauline Middleton, Lorraine May, Louise Smith. If you feel called to the ministry of care in the name of Jesus Christ please contact Pastor Laurie or leave a message at the church office: 299-4615.

CAREGIVER INFORMATION

National Family Caregivers Association http://www.ncfacares.org

This site offers tips, educational information and support to caregivers. It addresses important issues such as different diagnoses, relationships and life stages.

Healthy Caregiver

http://www.healthycaregiver.com

This site is dedicated to adults caring for aging parents. Offers information on caregiver workshops, social security programs and family therapy.

Family Caregiver Alliance http://www.caregiver.org

Provides information on long-term care insurance and conservatorships. Offers an extensive resource center and fact sheets on issues such as diseases and disorders and caregiving issues.

CAL-NEV MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKENDS

UM Marriage Encounter in our California-Nevada Annual Conference continues to offer weekend retreats for married and engaged couples at the Best Western Heritage Hotel in Rancho Cordova near Sacramento. Encounter weekends provide a series of well-prepared presentations by both clergy and lay couples from their own marriage experiences. Each couple who attends has the opportunity to experience a new sense of intimacy and spirituality. Well-designed materials are also provided to each couple.

The next Encounters scheduled are: May 2-4, and October 17 - 19, 2003. Engaged Encounter is scheduled for September 21-23, 2003.

To register for Marriage Encounter mail \$75.00 registration fee to: Dan and Kandi McLachlan, 28a29 Maricia Ave., Santa Clara, CA 9505, dmclach@yahoo.com. Register early. For more information please call toll free: (866) -633-3862.

To register for Engaged Encounter mail a \$50.00 registration fee to Jerry and Sue Angove, Roseville United Methodist Church, 1050 Porter Drive, Roseville, CA 95678, jangove@quiknet.com.

Micah Ministries

Local & World Missions

"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

(Micah 6:6)

AB 78 (REYES) HMONG EDUCATION

AB 78 is a bill pending before the California legislature that will provide school children with an opportunity to learn about how the Hmong supported American troops in the Secret War in Laos when they study U.S. History and the Viet Nam War. This inclusion will assist Hmong immigrant children and others in understanding the positive contributions Hmong have made to the American society and to appreciate Hmong culture and heritage while discouraging discrimination. If you would like to sign a petition in support of this bill which has no opponents please see Pastor Khamdy Yang on Sunday mornings.

GOSF ST. PATRICK'S PARTY

A hearty thank you goes to everyone who helped with the St. Patrick's Party last month. Our Hmong-flavored touch of the Irish celebration was a great success with about 80 people in attendance. The food was abundant and delicious. The children and adults enjoyed bingo and tossing games. Pastor Khamdy was so impressed by the progress of the ladies who have been learning English that he planned to talk about them on his radio program. Join us next time -- the more the merrier

HMONG MINISTRY SUBMITTNG GRANT PROPOSAL

The Hmong Ministry team has been hard at work on a grant for our emerging ministry here at Memorial aimed at supporting and encouraging the ministry of the 1.5 generation of young American Hmong. Please keep this proposal in your prayers as we have a lot of hopes riding on this submission. The grant will be submitted to the General Board of Global Ministry.

PRAYER SERVICE HELD EVENING WAR BEGINS

Thanks to the leadership of Pastor Newell Knudson and Pastor Laurence Hill we had a very special prayer service here in our sanctuary Tuesday evening March 19 with people from all over the community in attendance on very short notice. Out of that service grew a desire to express our support for out Moslem neighbors. A letter was composed for interested members to sign on Sunday morning in worship. The text of the letter is printed below and mailed following worship Sunday March 23 to Masjid Fresno:

Dear Friends, We the below signed members of Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis united with you in our worship of the one true God, humbly offer you our love and support during these difficult and perilous days.

In solidarity with you as fellow Americans and as people who serve God, we condemn those in our community who would use the current situation to strike out in prejudice, fear and hatred against our Moslem brothers and sisters. We stand ready to fight with you the forces of violence, malice, cowardice, and ignorance. Know that you may call on us at any time to be at your side in defense of your faith, your civil rights and your families. In God's service... (followed by signatures).

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK SITE APPROVAL

Following a presentation by Susan Lowrey on behalf of the Interfaith Hospitality Network project the church Council approved Memorial UMC as a site for housing homeless families for seven nights four times a year in the Fellowship Hall (most likely in two Sunday This project will not School rooms). commence before 12 church sites are confirmed hopefully by January 2004. The church will provide evening meals for fourteen persons, about half of them children for working class families struggling to get back on their feet after a crisis (such as unemployment, medical need etc.) has resulted in the loss of their housing. Families eat dinner, sleep, eat a cold breakfast at the church, pack a lunch for the day and go to a day center each morning (or to school or to work) where a social worker assists them in strategies for locating employment and housing.

You will be hearing more about opportunities for serving in this new ministry as time goes by. Meanwhile, if you are interested you may speak with Mary Vollman, Evelyn Haulman or Jean Hill our Missions Commission who will be coordinating this ministry.

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF KOREAN CHURCHES IN AMERICA

Our Fresno Korean United Methodist congregation is planning a special evening's entertainment of Korean culture and food for all of us on Sunday April 27 at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner will follow the program at 5 p.m. This is an opportunity for the Korean congregation to express its gratitude to us and an opportunity for us to honor their 100th Anniversary of the Korean mission in America. We will have an opportunity to hear the stories about the Korean immigrants in America. There will be a sign-up in worship April 13 and in the lobby on April 20.

Also, looking ahead to late summer, mark your calendars now for Thursday evening August 7, 2003 when the Korean congregation will sponsor a world famous instrumental ensemble in concert at 7:30 p.m.

FRESNO RESCUE MISSION

Spring Concert and Western Barbecue May 2, 2003

Tickets: \$50

All you can eat barbecued tri-tip, chicken and sausages, salads and beverages.

Entertainment by The Sons of the San Joaquin. Call 268-0839 for more information.

CHURCH COUNCIL APPROVES MEMORIAL AS RSVP SITE

After a presentation by Janet Ames, Field Coordinator for the federally funded Retired Senior Volunteer program, the church Council voted to approve Memorial as an RSVP site. We are now looking for someone to serve as our RSVP coordinator. The job of the coordinator will be to log volunteer hours, enroll new volunteers and provide information about RSVP opportunities. The purpose of RSVP is to encourage older Americans to volunteer in their religious institutions and community programs. If you would like to be the coordinator, speak with Council Chair Sharon Hutchinson or Pastor Denice. If

you would like to log volunteer hours for your time served in ministries of the church with RSVP please call the church office at 299-4615. Memorial has had two volunteers of the year honored: Shirley Golden for her work with Meals on Wheels and Margie Macgargee for her with Mission Thrift.

Worship Ministry

News from the teams that support the Sunday worship services. "Make a joyful noise to the LORD... Serve the Lord with gladness!" (Psalm 100)

TWO ASH SERVICES THIS YEAR PALM/PASSION SUNDAY AT MEMORIAL APRIL 13

On Palm/Passion Sunday, our service will begin out of doors in front of the sanctuary where we will line either side of the entry and greet Jesus and the disciples with waving palm fronds. There will be a time for the children to speak with Jesus before we process into the sanctuary. This service traditionally begins on a high note and proceeds into a dramatic reading of the passion narrative this year from Mark's gospel which is concluded with the singing of the hymn "Were You There" as the choir strips the church completely bare of all ornamentation as a sign of the absence of the Lord until the day of resurrection. For those who are able, we will have our traditional services of Holy Thursday and Good Friday. All three of these opportunities to experience the Lord's death assure we will not arrive on Easter Sunday morning having cheered Jesus into Jerusalem, by pass the work of the cross, and shout alleluia on the day of resurrection. Please plan to be in worship this week to receive the spiritual blessings of these redemptive day!

HOLY THURSDAY SIMPLE SUPPER

On Thursday of Holy Week, April 17, we will gather in our Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. for a simple meal reminiscent of the supper Jesus and the disciples ate in the Upper Room. After the supper at 7:30 p.m. we will move to the sanctuary for our Upper Room remembrance communion service. Pat Frey and the Congregational Events team will coordinate the dinner.

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE AT ACADEMY CHURCH

On Good Friday of Holy Week, April 18, we will gather at 7:00 p.m. at the historic Academy church on Madsen (next left after Mendocino 15 minutes east on 168/Tollhouse Rd.) for the service of extinguishing light. We'll hear the story of the crucifixion and witness once again the dimming of the Light of the World. Pastor George and Lucy Elgin will lead us in worship.

CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION EASTER SUNDAY!

There will be three worship opportunities to choose from on Easter Sunday morning April 20, 2003: The morning begins with Sunrise Service at Academy Church at 6:30 a.m. This service is set out front of the church facing the sun rising over the beautiful hills.

Celebration Worship at Memorial begins with children gathering at 9:30 a.m. for the Victory Processional at the opening of worship at 10:00 a.m. After the announcement that the tomb is empty we will join in singing "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" and watch as the empty tomb is transformed into the garden of resurrection. Janet Ericson will grace us with her flute this wonderful morning!

Following these morning services you may enjoy an Easter lunch potluck at the Academy Church at 12:00 noon followed by an Easter afternoon service at 2:00 p.m.



FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING

Our Chime Choir, Fellowship of the Ring, has rehearsal every Sunday at 4:30. All members as well as newcomers are invited to come. For more information, see Jeanette Erikson or Sue DeFranco.

COME SING FOR EASTER!

The choir will be preparing for Easter. All who would like to sing for this season are invited to join us in rehearsals on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

Christian Education

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable."



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 a.m. ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 & 11:15 a.m.

Our Sunday School starts at 8:45 with music then we go to out classes and learn different things about the Bible. The k-3rd and 4-6th graders are doing all kinds of fun craft projects. We could use baby food or small jars with lids, fabric, yarn, buttons and other craft materials you might have and not be using. If you want to donate please call or see Dorrie. Thank you.

Dorrie Osback Sunday School Superintendent

CHILD CARE NEEDED?

If you need childcare for any meeting, event or program, please contact our Childcare Coordinator and Supervisor, Dorrie Osback. Please give at least a week's advance notice. Childcare is provided on an available basis only. Dorrie will let you know if no childcare provider is available for the time you request.





You Are Cordially Invited . . .

... to join a great group of Christian young people!

Who: All Seventh through Twelfth Graders

Welcome!

When: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Most Sunday nights

(Check the Youth calendar for other

events of interest)

Where: The Bungalow

Memorial UMC, Pollasky and Scott

What to Bring:

#1 - Your Own Unique Self

#2 - A desire to find out more about the good things God wants for you

#3 - The willingness to put God's commandments into action

R.S.V.P. - No need, just show up!

For more details, see the April Youth newsletter, or contact Youth Pastor Connie, connie@clovismumc.org.



APRIL CALENDAR YOUTH

Sat. April 5 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Poverello House Work Day

Sun. April 6 4:00 p.m. Movie Matinee

Sun. April 13 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Youth Group

Meeting (Bungalow)

Sun. April 20 Easter - NO MEETING!

Sun. April 27 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Youth Group

Meeting (Bungalow)

NEW TIME FOR POVERELLO HOUSE WORK DAYS

The first Saturday of each month, our church youth have been faithfully giving up some of their free time to serve meals at Fresno's Poverello House. To be more useful to the Poverello staff, we have volunteered for an earlier shift, so we can help prepare the meals. This will start on Saturday, April 5. Typically, we will meet at the church at 8:00 a.m., and return by 11:00 a.m. God grant us the strength to get up so early!

YOUTH MOVIE MATINEE APRIL 6

On Sunday, April 6, the youth group will go to a matinee show at the movies, instead of holding its regular Sunday night meeting. Details (which movie, what time, etc.) will be decided as the date gets closer.

Look For Us On the Web!

Our youth group has its very own page on the Memorial UMC web site! Check it out at www.clovisumc.org. There are pictures and calendar updates. Soon, our monthly newsletter will also be available through the site. You can e-mail Connie, the youth pastor, any time at connie@clovisumc.org.

Calling All Happy Campers!

Camp is a wonderful opportunity to renew, refresh, and revive your relationship with God. Experience the wonder of his creation...in the world and in yourself. A variety of camp experiences are available.

Children K-1st grade Children & parent July 21-23

JOY (Joining Older with Younger)
For young children & grandparents
July 7-11

Children entering grades 3-6 New Hope June 22-27 Discovery July 13-18 SuperKid July 27-August 2

Junior High, entering grades 7-9
SuperCamp July 6-12
Camp Quest July 20-26
Alive Now! Hiking Camp Aug 3-9

Senior High, entering grades 9-12 Camp Resurrection Aug 3-9 Sr. High Backpack July 27-Aug 2

Adult, Family, & Other Camp Adult & Family June 15-22

Explore (Mentally/Physically challenged) June 27-30

Desert Mystics, Desert Prophets (age 18+) July 22-25 District Family & Bike Camp July 17-20 Shasta Family Conference July 26-Aug 1

Nevada Sierra District Horse Camp Aug 8-10

Hispanic Family Aug 29-31

Spiritual Formation Retreat Aug 21-24

Red Ribbon/Strength for Journey (HIV/AIDS) Oct. 24-26

Shasta Feather Camp June 22-27

For more information, log on to www.cnumc.org. Fees and registration forms are available on the Internet and in the church office. Or contact Kay Gonzalez.

One Last Thought

These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

- 1. Announcement in a church bulletin for a national PRAYER & FASTING Conference: "The cost for attending the Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals."
- 2. The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."
- 3. Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.
- 4. The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.
- 5. Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say "Hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.