

Alleluia

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Cleaning Our Hearts and Our Souls

By Anna Reilly

The following is a teaching presented at the April 23rd Women's Retreat,
"Spring Clean-up for the Heart."



A Word received by Jeanne Lindsay at the Youth Focused Prayer Meeting on 4-14-16.

I have brought you forth, My People, for My Plan and Purpose, for such a time as this. You are mine, Alleluia!

As you turn to Me, you shall be anointed from on high with an outpouring of My Spirit such as you have never experienced.

The age of man moves swiftly now, to a time of great turmoil, before My coming return, Your Messiah and Bridegroom King.

Allow My love to enfold you. Hear what I speak to you. See where I am moving. Dance my circle dance in the Trinity of Love.

I will protect you and care for you; even in hardship you will flow with abundance. Your joy will attract the disenfranchised... the Lost, the Lonely, the Desperate and the Needy.

In Me, you will comfort, encourage, heal and strengthen. In Me you will proclaim the Truth of My Kingdom.

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First Question – Please raise your hand if you wash or wipe down your walls at least once a month? Once a year? Once every three years? OK, I'm now convinced that my family grew up as the only people in the world who didn't wash their walls. How did I miss that? Did my mom wash walls while we slept? Mother taught us how to keep house, iron Daddy's shirts, measure ingredients for a cake, set a correct table, but I do not ever remember her saying anything about the walls.

Now this is something of what we're going to look at today while we allow the Lord to clean our hearts and souls. We're going to take a look at those areas of sin or ignorance in our lives that keep us from experiencing God's love for us and our love for others—those areas that we might not clean as much as we should.

Did you know that we can't clean our own spiritual house? Why not? Because we aren't our own cleanser—Jesus is, and only Jesus. He is the one who makes us whole, clean, complete. We have to start this cleansing here, at the foot of the cross, looking into

the heart and eyes of the one who died for us so that we can be clean.

Scripture says that "without a vision, the people perish." As we sit before the Lord, we need to have a vision of what we want to look like. I'm not speaking of something we can transform ourselves into, but what do we want to be when clean? Totally the Lord's woman, that's what we desire.

Twenty plus years ago, I stood in Mike Reilly's house as he showed me the room he'd added onto his house. Can you guess what it was going to be? A tool room! Ladies, this room has a high cathedral ceiling and the walls are mostly windows looking out into the backyard. I couldn't believe he wanted this to be a tool room. I saw it as a beautiful family room, inviting, with loads of light coming through the windows, and happiness; a joyful room, a place where his children would experience love and freedom. We were married a year later and I can promise you, that room is NOT used for tools.

Without a vision, the people perish. It's good for us to have a picture

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— a picture of hope in what we can become when we place ourselves in the Lord's hands. It's then necessary that we place ourselves in front of Him and begin to understand more and more just how incredibly much He loves us. Not just the collective us, the you and me of us.

Oh, how He loves me. Oh, how He loves you. Individually created, formed in our mothers' wombs for a purpose...His purpose. It's vital that we know and believe this truth and that we know and experience our Lord's deep love for us. He loved you when He formed you, He loves you now, He will love you for eternity and there is nothing you can do to get away from that love except to walk away from it. Even then He'll pursue you and me and forgive us over and over and over and over. Seventy times seven – always.

That's the vision we need before we clean house.

What needs to be cleaned? For all of us, it's different specifics, but we want to look at a few areas today. We've heard in the [Alleluia] Community that these areas affect our lives deeply, and that we may not even know what's robbing us of our hope or joy.



Around the first of the year, there was a spirit of acedia discerned over us. Most of us had never heard of the word, or knew what it meant. The Elders started talking to us about it, and Dan Almeter wrote two Dove articles on it—that was enough to make me take notice. Many people I've talked to don't know what the big deal is, and that IS the big deal.

Acedia comes over us when we've been walking with the Lord for a while, and it has the power to influence us into a spiritual carelessness, a lack of joy in God's service. It makes us think like the Israelites in the desert, that it's just too hard being God's children. Remember the story of the Exodus when the Israelites wanted to return to Egypt? It was too hard trusting in that fiery column at night or the cloud in the day. And they wanted to eat the food they had known their entire life and not the manna that God had given them. It was too hard! And it is hard, living as God's children, especially if we try to do it on our own outside the grace of God. We were called to be God's children and to build a life showing the world the hope and joy of the Lord. That's what Alleluia means, the praise of the Lord. We were called to be a people of praise.

What does acedia look and feel like? Sadness, sloth, laziness, busyness, disgust, weariness, drudgery, loss of meaning in life, melancholy, boredom, depression, discouragement, having a sense that nothing's ever going to change. It can influence a person to think too much about themselves, to think too much about their health. It can lead to gluttony and addictions.

Acedia is a sin against the joy of the Lord, a sin that actually affects our own personal lives and our Community life as people called to be the light on the mountain.

How do we cleanse our hearts of the sin of sloth or keep ourselves away from the spirit of acedia?

We recognize our need for forgiveness and we repent. We shed tears of sorrow that we haven't been diligent in the ways of God

Be faithful to prayer time. Work hard at it.

Be faithful in little things. For us in Alleluia, it would be being faithful to gatherings, our contributions to the Community, our service to each other.

Live intensely in the present moment. Enjoy the life God has given us, knowing that He has a purpose for each moment of our lives.

Read and study Scripture. Memorize it. Keep it in the front of our hearts and minds.

Avoid "going under the radar."

Be grateful for what God has given us: each other, as imperfect as we are. Tell God daily what we're thankful for— from the smallest to the largest things He has provided for us.

Look at Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you.

When we look at ourselves, we can become sad and disheartened. When we look at God, we have hope and joy.

The next area we want to address is mercy, believing that God has been merciful to us and extending that mercy to others.

Because we live such close lives, we have a tendency to have tunnel vision, and we judge each other inside that area of vision. We are tempted to identify each other by the other's worst sin or problem, not seeing the larger picture. We have to see people as God sees them, with a heart of mercy. We are one with each other, so this is where mercy must be practiced the most, and this isn't an easy task. We should always assume the best. This is one of the teachings that has been so good for me when I find myself judging someone. We don't know the "why" behind some behavior. We don't know everyone so well that we

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From the Wall

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In Me you will bring life, peace, righteousness and joy to a world that is screaming the opposite realities.

Oh My Precious Ones, I need you to be near me now. I need you to thirst for Me. I need you to long for Me. I need you to rest in Me. I need you to love Me.

Because only I know how much you are going to need Me in the days ahead. Because only I know how much I love each of you. Because only I understand, deep in the heart, the eternal consequences of the salvation I have won for you on the Cross.

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understand their weak spots. We have to assume the best and be merciful with our own "family."

We also have to extend that mercy to others. We need to see each other and assume the best. We need to see each other as people made in the image and likeness of God.

The last thing that we'll mention today that dirties our home is unforgiveness. We must forgive each other. The law of love requires no less than this. We don't need to feel forgiveness; we don't have to have someone ask our forgiveness; we simply have to forgive people who we feel have offended us. We've had so many teachings and examples about forgiveness. Forgive as your heavenly Father has forgiven you; "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." How many times must I forgive, Lord? "If your brother sins, go to him..." If we don't forgive, we run the danger of becoming bitter

Are You Coming to the Revival & Unity Kairos Conference?

By Dan Almeter

As you all know by now, Alleluia is hosting an international conference on spiritual revival and Christian unity from July 15-17 this summer. Some of the folks already registered are coming from places like England, North Carolina, North Dakota, Arizona, Texas, New York, Florida and Michigan. Many of the folks coming are ordained clergy, leaders of major Christian ministries and other covenant communities.

The Elders would like for as many of us as possible to come to the Kairos weekend as well. The entire weekend cost is \$125. Friday will be mainly for pastors and community and ministry leaders, as well as our own Alleluia pastoral and ministry leaders. How-

ever, everyone in Alleluia Community can also attend the Friday sessions. The rest of the weekend (all day Saturday and Sunday) we are asking as many of us in Alleluia as possible, to sign up and attend. The cost is \$75 for Saturday and Sunday. We can register by paying at the Community office. Or you can go online and register and pay online with a credit card.

Why should you come? First of all, you will get your socks blessed off. Secondly, many of the folks coming for the conference are very interested in looking at our community life. Having you available to meet and talk with them will be very important. Thirdly, the Holy Spirit is moving in a very fresh and powerful way. This conference will be a door into seeing and participating in where the Holy Spirit is leading us.

As part of the weekend, we will be hosting an ice cream social in K-Block on Thursday night, for all our guests. Everyone (including children) are welcome. The conference will end Sunday afternoon and we will have a "cast party" of sorts—a cookout for the whole community and our guests in Center Circle at 6 p.m. (similar to 4th of July with entertainment included). More information to come.

Please start talking to EVERYONE you know about the Damian Stayne Healing and Miracle Service being held Saturday, July 16th, starting at 7 p.m. at the Columbia Co. Exhibition Center in Grovetown (where we had the Full Covenant Retreat). It can hold 2,000 and we want to fill it. It is open to all the public and is free.

Jack McAdams will be getting a housing form to complete, for those of you who can accommodate convention guests. Please continue to pray for this awesome event—that the devil will stay far away, and that God will truly be glorified and His purposes fulfilled.

women. That certainly robs us of joy and, consequently, steals what joy we could show to others.

Acedia, lack of mercy, unforgiveness. These are three of the areas that we can look at as we go into our prayer times. Of course there are individual things that God may speak to you about.

Before beginning the house cleaning though, spend time letting Jesus tell you how much you mean to Him, how much He loves you, how much He wants your life to go well, even if it's in the middle of a hardship.

Don't dig into your sins, allow the Lord to take you where you're the most bound up, unjoyful, and let Him forgive and renew you.

Anna Reilly is one of twenty-one Alleluia Handmaids, women who provide overall insight to the community government from a womanly perspective. She is a retired school teacher and has been a Full Covenant member of Alleluia Community since 1978. She and her husband, Mike, are the parents of three adult children, and attend St. Joseph Catholic Church in Augusta, Georgia.

ACS Robotics Club Wins GICAA State Tournament (1st Place and Runner Up)

By Andy Hatfield, Teacher



MadMax, Jarvis, GLaDOS, Elvis and HAL are all in various stages of development as the day begins at 6:00 a.m. "Who?" you ask. "I don't remember any of those students and what do you mean by development?" Well, I guess I should give you some back story as the contenders prepared for the journey.

Based on the competition last year, each team started by building a base robot that should be able to navigate the playing field, allow for attachments, and was supposed to build some simple commands that could be used in competition this year. There were several projects that were worked on in preparation for the competition such as a line-following race, a synchronized dance and a walled maze. ...The training was intense, the hours long, the ferocity of the individuals preparing to combat each other set the tensions high, and then the late addition of a new team added to the frustrations that the robots felt as they sensed a...

OK, sure, the middle schoolers can form a team with the used robots from last year and come along with us. So we loaded up two vans with 16 kids and 3 adults. There are now 5 robotics teams in the ACS Robotics Club:

- **Team MadMax:** Tim Dolin, Captain; Jon Phillips, Engineer; Philip Hatfield, Programmer.
- **Team Elvis:** Ania Hatfield, Captain; Celine Sterett, Engineer; Colette Sullivan, Programmer.
- **Team Jarvis:** Elaine Densmore, Captain; Faith Johnson, Engineer; Hannah King, Programmer.
- **Team GLaDOS:** Joe Stenger, Captain; Dominic Germann, Engineer; Francis Sullivan, Programmer.
- **Team HAL:** Auggie Balducci, Captain; Cameron King; Kolbe Dolin; Nick Sullivan.

Each team had its strengths and weaknesses and each had different levels of preparedness. Yet, they were one club helping each other learn and build throughout the day. When the teams arrived at the competition, there were some

immediate problems:

1. The foremost problem was that all the preassembled robots had to be disassembled because the playing board had a ramp that none of our robots could scale.
2. GLaDOS and Jarvis did not bring their notes nor prepared commands.
3. MadMax never made notes or prepared commands.
4. Elvis, though the most prepared, had a captain with a migraine headache on serious drugs for pain.
5. HAL had nearly no experience programming and was using a different language.
6. Finally, there were computer troubles, of course.

So the kids got to work. The first problem was to get up the harsh lip of the ramp. The ramp had a half inch lip the front wheels had trouble with and the ball bearing rear wheel on the back would never make it at all. After putting our heads together as a club, the answer seemed to be "Use Tracks, like a tank."

After a complete teardown and rebuild with treads, the game master called each of the team captains from the 12 participating teams together for a conference concerning the game board. All of the other schools were also having trouble getting up the ramp, and there was a request to have the board modified in such a way that the robots with smaller wheels would be able to compete on that part of the board. The captains were asked to think of the other teams and then vote on whether to allow the board to be modified to make the lip smoother. A unanimous vote was necessary to have any modifications to the board.

Team 12, "Nope." It was not unanimous; there would be no change to the board. One of the 5 Alleluia teams did not feel it was fair to change the board after so much work had gone into designing the robots to solve the challenge that was presented to them. A couple of the other teams approached the game master and said that they agreed with the final vote also since "they came to be challenged."

All of the teams were frantically trying to re-engineer and program the robots. The announcement came: "STARTING TIME IN 15 MINUTES!!!" Then came the: "What???", "No!!!"

Nobody, man nor machine, was ready, and yet the start was upon us. Fear, trembling, anticipation, desire ensued as the players tried to take the field.

The first round had MadMax score the highest round recorded in the tournament and at the last round, MadMax had earned the highest overall score. HAL had done very well earning the second highest score overall, with Elvis, and GLaDOS not far behind. Sadly, Jarvis did not make the semi-finals.

The semi-finals began with all previous scores erased. The teams now competed in an elimination game where the top two would go on to the finals. Elvis ran a near perfect match, while GLaDOS was eliminated, her portal closed.

The final match was dearly fought and is recorded in video on the ACS Robotics Facebook page. Three of the four finalists were from the ACS Robotics Club. HAL was masterful in the arena of placing donuts in the pit scoring zone, MadMax had untold, uncountable troubles, and Elvis kept getting stuck in the first round. Round two had Elvis and MadMax placing donuts in many scoring zones with HAL still filling the pit. Round three was the clincher, Elvis scored in her sixth scoring zone essentially winning the match. HAL, however, seemed to have a chance. There was a random drawing based on how many donuts were in the pit. Elvis had put one in the pit in the last round, HAL had six. The chances were 6:1 in favor of HAL and Elvis won the draw. What were the chances? ...Ummm... In the end, it was Elvis 20 points above HAL, with the final spread of only 65 points between the first place and fourth place robots.

For the complete story, more pictures and videos go to <https://www.facebook.com/ACSAfterSchoolRobotics/>

Thanks to all who supported us.