

Joel & Nikki Akridge

NEWSLETTER

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!

We hope 2015 has been a year where you have seen the Lord work in your life. As we charge through these final couple of weeks we are reminded of how we are so very blessed. God



continues to provide for our every need as we continue in our ministry of teaching and guiding students, supporting missionaries, and helping those in need. We are thankful for your prayer and support and pray the Lord would move you to continue. As you know, we share a small salary at the school and without your donations we would financially be unable to continue in our ministry at TG and in our assistance to mission work and to those in need, or at the very least be unable to continue our level of involvement. Thank you a thousand times over.

Our neighborhood, city, and school.....

With so many tough things happening in our community and beyond we are constantly reminded that the love of our Lord is the only thing that will heal our city and our world. Unfortunately, the media isn't interested in

reporting on social progress but please know this.....hope exists in the generation to come. Our student body is a beautiful melting pot of all backgrounds, and as the media has continually attempted to widen the divide in our communities our student body has continued to be an example of what our society *could* be. God continues to give us hope that He is, and will continue, working in the lives of the next generation(s).

Tower Grove Christian Academy - Drama

We just completed our 6th Annual TGCA Dinner Theatre. It is such a huge undertaking and each year presents new challenges. Even with the "stress" of all the behind-the-scenes aspects of the production such as catering (go Pappy's BBQ!), set building and design, directing the students, line memorization, where to stand, when to go on/go off stage, buying costumes and props, etc., our favorite aspect is seeing some who are nervous, who have never attempted anything like this in front of a crowd, turn into young men and women who walk off the stage feeling satisfied at what they were able to accomplish.



***2015 Dinner Theatre
"We Did It!" Celebration Lunch***



We enjoy this part of our ministry at the school because it gives us an opportunity to connect with the students in a deeper way. On a side note, this is the reason we agreed to become the student council supervisors as we are able, in some small way, to help train future leaders by giving them responsibilities and challenges that will encourage them to be impactful leaders long after they graduate.

We don't hide the fact that over 90% of our graduates go to college. Many are the first in their families to achieve any post high school education and we are motivated to help them achieve this goal.

Several years ago when we began our ministry at the school I volunteered to be the academic advisor for our high school students. I wanted the opportunity to speak with each and every one of our students in order to be given the opportunity to have multiple conversations before they graduate, whether those conversations happen in the classroom, an office, hallway, or on a bus on our way to a field trip or ballgame. To talk with them about life, about choices, about the meaning of it all. To help them realize that being guided by God is preferable to being guided by earthly desires that never seem to deliver.

What pleases us greatly is the fact that many of these conversations continue long after they have graduated as God continues to allow our paths to cross through a random text asking for advice, a phone call asking for prayer, or stopping by our home for a chat.

Preach it...

In addition to our ministry at the school I have been asked as TGCA Chaplain to preach every 3rd week of every month at Tower Grove church. This has been a challenge for us as we enjoyed the church we were attending, but as you know obedience to the Lord comes with a cost so we said goodbye to a very encouraging church body and moved forward in obedience. His ways or not our ways.

Our desire...



We desire to do more. We continue to support missions domestically and internationally, as well as helping any in need the Lord places in our path. From helping someone buy groceries, to helping a student pay for their ACT fee, to giving a car to a missionary who desperately needs it. The opportunity to meet the needs of others is plentiful.

We continue in financial/prayer support of mission work in Haiti, Bangladesh, and other parts of the world as needs are brought to our attention. We have additional missionaries,

sister ministries, and areas of our school we desire to partner with and support.

Because of financial support we are able to continue this work. We take what we do, and how we do it, very seriously. Please know that if the Lord leads you to donate it is being used *fully* for the purpose of changing lives, and if so, please send a check payable to Rhapsody Ministries, Inc. Your donation is *fully tax-deductible*. PayPal is also available at our website.

We also have partnered with Amazon Smile. If you have an account with Amazon please consider shopping through smile.amazon.com. It is the same as Amazon with the difference being that when you shop through smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates 0.5% of your purchase to Rhapsody Ministries, Inc. Simply select  us as your non-profit of choice and you will help us continue in our ministry!

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If you would like to know more about Rhapsody Ministries, Inc., please head to www.rhapsodyministries.com, and don't forget to "Like" us on Facebook.

We pray God reveals Himself to you in new and exciting ways each and every day until the day He takes us Home!

If this is your first time reading one of our newsletters... we believe you are here for a reason. Let me explain what we're about.....

Rhapsody Ministries, Inc. was officially established in the spring of 2011. One aspect of our ministry is to support missionaries/humanitarians on short term, long term, and lifelong mission projects in order to prayerfully, emotionally, and financially support them as they serve others.

A large aspect of Rhapsody Ministries encompasses our ministry at Tower Grove Academy. A private school in the heart of the city of St. Louis across from the Botanical Gardens and Tower Grove Park. In 2010, Nikki and I became the head(s) of the High School Bible department. We are also building a Fine Arts Department along with our involvement in other areas of the school I mentioned in this newsletter.

In addition to these "two halves" of our ministry, we prayerfully and financially help any and all who are in need. If the Lord brings them to our attention....we help. We do much of it "secretly" in order to do all we can to call attention to our Lord, not to ourselves.

Nikki and I share less than a full-time salary at the school. Without your donations we would be unable to continue in our ministry at the school. We fully believe, and have experienced the fact, that obedience comes first and God takes care of the rest. We are not naive, we know we can "do better financially" working somewhere else, but we live our lives with eternal eyes wide open. We know the Lord will provide each day if we remain faithful.

If you ever have any questions about any aspect of this ministry, simply ask. We are open about what we do and what the Lord is doing in and through our lives for His glory.

