

# High School News

February 2010

## Table for Two

by Kirsten Burgess

He sits by himself at a table for two. The uniformed waiter returns to his side and asks, "Would you like to go ahead and order, sir?" The man has, after all, been waiting since seven o'clock — almost half an hour.

"No, thank you," the man smiles. "I'll wait for her a while longer. How about some coffee?"

"Certainly, sir."

The man sits, his deep brown eyes gazing straight through the flowered centerpiece. He fingers his napkin, allowing the sounds of light chatter, tinkling silverware, and mellow music to fill his mind. He is dressed in a sport coat and tie, his dark brown hair is neatly combed. He is dressed up enough to make a companion feel important, respected, loved. Yet he is not so formal as to make one uncomfortable. It seems that he has taken every precaution to make others feel at ease with him. Still, he sits alone. The waiter returns to fill the man's coffee cup.

"Is there anything else I can get you, sir?"

"No, thank you."

The waiter remains standing at the table. Something tugs at his curiosity. "I don't mean to pry, but..." His voice trails off. This line of conversation could jeopardize his tip.

"Go ahead," the man encourages. His voice is strong, yet sensitive, inviting conversation.

"Why do you bother waiting for her?" the waiter finally blurts out. This man has been at the restaurant other evenings, always patiently alone.

"Because she needs me."

"Are you sure?"

"Yes."

"Well, sir, no offense, but assuming that she needs you, she sure isn't acting much like it. She's stood you up three times this week."

The man winces and looks down at the table. "Yes, I know."

"Then why do you still come and wait?"

"Cassie said that she would be here."

"She's said that before," the waiter protests. "I wouldn't put up with it. Why do you?"

Now the man looks up, smiles at the waiter, and says simply, "Because I love her."

The waiter walks away, wondering how one could love a girl who stands him up three times in one week. The man must be crazy, he decides. Across the room, he turns to look at the man again. The man slowly pours cream into his coffee. He twirls his spoon between his fingers a few times before stirring sweetener into his cup. After staring for a moment into the liquid, the man brings the cup to his mouth and sips, silently watching those around him.

He doesn't look crazy, the waiter admits. Maybe the girl has qualities that I don't know about. Or maybe the man's love is stronger than most. The waiter shakes himself out of his musings to take an order from a party of five.

The man watches the waiter and wonders if he's ever been stood up.

The man has, many times. But he still can't get used to it. Each time, it hurts. He's looked forward to this evening all day. He has many things, exciting things, to tell Cassie. But, more importantly, he wants to hear Cassie's voice. He wants her to tell him all about her day, her triumphs, her defeats....anything, really. He has tried so many times to show Cassie how much he loves her. He'd just like to know that she cares for him, too. He sips sporadically at the coffee, and loses himself in thought, knowing that Cassie is late, but still hoping that she will arrive.

The clock says nine-thirty when the waiter returns to the man's table. "Is there anything I can get for you?"

The still empty chair stabs at the man. "No, I think that will be all for

tonight. May I have the check please?"

"Yes, sir."

When the waiter leaves, the man picks up the check. He pulls out his wallet and sighs. He has enough money to have given Cassie a feast. But he takes out only enough to pay for coffee and the tip. *Why do you do this, Cassie?* his mind cries as he gets up from the table.

"Good-bye," the waiter says, as the man walks towards the door.

"Good night. Thank you for your service."

"You're welcome, sir," says the waiter softly, for he sees the hurt in the man's eyes that his smile doesn't hide. The man passes a laughing young couple on his way out, and his eyes glisten as he thinks of the good time he and Cassie could have had. He stops at the front and makes reservations for tomorrow. Maybe Cassie will be able to make it, he thinks.

"Seven o'clock tomorrow for party of two?" the hostess confirms.

"That's right," the man replies.

"Do you think she'll come?" asks the hostess. She doesn't mean to be rude, but she has seen the man many times alone at his table for two.

"Someday, yes. And I will be waiting for her." The man buttons his overcoat and walks out of the restaurant, alone. His shoulders are hunched, but through the windows the hostess can only guess whether they are hunched against the wind or against the man's hurt.

As the man turns toward home, Cassie turns into bed. She is tired after an evening out with friends. As she reaches toward her night stand to set the alarm, she sees the note that she scribbled to herself last night. "7:00," it says. "Spend some time praying." Darn, she thinks. She forgot again. She feels a twinge of guilt, but quickly pushes it aside. She needed that time with her friends. And now she needs her sleep. She can pray tomorrow night. Jesus will forgive her. And she's sure he doesn't mind.



## Mexico Mission Trip



It's not too late to turn in a deposit of \$100 and reserve your place in the van for the fabulously awesome every-other-year mission trip to Mexico! It will likely be the best week of your summer, and you don't want to miss it! We'll be traveling and working with staff from Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp July 4-10, 2010 (don't worry — we'll see fireworks in Albuquerque Sunday night!).

If you've already signed up for the trip, your second deposit of \$100 will be due March 1. The

rest will come through Faith Shares. Registration is now open to parents, relatives, church members, or friends of Ascension youth who would like to experience this incredible week, so spread the word!

If you're not sure you'd enjoy it or not, talk to any of the youth who have gone before. Yes, it's hard work, but it's a lot of fun, too! And it's great to leave feeling like you've really helped a family and that they've helped change how you look at the world.

## Sunday School

High School Sunday School meets in the upstairs youth room at 9:15AM. In February, the discussion topic will be "living in the midst of anxiety." In March, there will be several guest speakers talk-

ing about various relationship issues — friendship, dating, engagement, and marriage.

Come check it out and learn something new!



## Coming Events



**Sunday, February 7** — Super Bowl Party at Ana Reynolds's house! Get there at 4PM to fill out your Super Bowl predictions and potentially win fabulous prizes. (For real! There's some good stuff involved!) Bring \$5 for dinner (subs, chips, drinks, etc.). Friends are welcome. Please sign up on the youth bulletin board so Ana & her fam know how many people to plan for.

**Sunday, February 14** — Tiffany's Favorite Things Night! Hey, it's my last night, so I'll plan all the crazy stuff I want, starting with us making dinner together, 'cause you guys tend to crack me up when you cook. Brownies that taste like wood? Awesome. I'll be looking forward to it. Wear good shoes so we can play running games.

**Sunday, February 21** — Bowling for Jesus! Hang out at Harmony Bowl from 2-5PM. The cost is \$2.50 per game and \$2.50 for shoes, so bring \$10

if you want to bowl three games. If you went to the youth gathering and pledged to save, collect, or earn \$100 to help wipe out malaria, take the sheet enclosed to your friends, neighbors, and teachers to get some donations. They can pledge per pin (say they pledge ten cents per pin and you play three games and score 100 each game, then they owe you \$30). If they say, "I hate math; here's five bucks," that's awesome, too. But some of you are looking like you need some help getting some of that money raised, so this should help. Either way, bowling for money or bowling for fun, come hang out & have a good time!

**March 21** — Rock & Worship Road Show at the World Arena! Mercy Me, David Crowder Band, Family Force 5, and more. It'll be awesome, and it's only \$10. Put it on your calendar!

**March 28** — Easter Sunrise Service Rehearsal! Dolores & Cindi are planning something spectacular, so come help make the annual Sunrise Service great!

## Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp

Registration is open! Spots are filled on a first come, first served basis, so don't wait and get left out! Go have a great week at camp July 11-17

or July 25-31. And remember that you can earn half the money for a week at camp by helping out at our fundraisers!! Sign up at [www.rainbowtrail.org](http://www.rainbowtrail.org)