



**12TH ANNUAL STEP UP TO LIFE BANQUET
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2011**

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 WAYS

Doors open at 5:30, dinner at 6:30 PM
Embassy Suites, LaVista Conference Center
I-80 & Giles road, Exit 422 (adjacent to Cabela's)

Friends, we welcome you to be with us for a wonderful evening. There is no charge for dinner. We will honor the reservation that you make and ask that you honor it, too. **If you need to cancel, please phone/text us at (402) 968-7447 so that we may reassign your seat. Call (402) 933-4095 today for reservations.**

DOES THIS MEAL SOUND APPEALING TO YOU?

*The following is our menu for the Step Up To Life Annual Banquet. It didn't come from **BON APPÉTIT**...but it sounds like it could have!*

SALAD: Apple and Pear Arugula - Walnuts, Sliced Fennel, Gorgonzola Cheese and Dried Cranberries

MAIN ENTRÉE: Pecan-encrusted Chicken, pan-seared, topped with Maple and Vanilla Bean Cream sauce over steamed Wild Rice

VEGETABLES: Whole Baby Carrots and Green Beans

DESSERT: Ultimate Chocolate Cake with chocolate mousse layered between chocolate butter cake topped with a chocolate cookie crust

SUTL Needed as Prison Ministry Deluged By Letters

LeRoy and Vonnie Dugan head up Bethany Prison Ministry. They are retired staff from the Bethany Missionary Fellowship. This letter was recently sent to us from them.

Dear *Step Up To Life*,

Once again we are asking for more copies of the *Step Up To Life* booklet. We are all out.

We are almost flooded with letters from prisoners from whom we have never heard before. Somehow, the word is out about the availability of free Christian literature.

As you know this means we are not only challenged with the increasing numbers of books we will need to send, but are in real need of more SUTL booklets, because it is our desire to give every new writer a copy.

In the last twelve months, we have received about 1,500 letters from as far away as Texas, California and Florida...and many states in between.

What is most important is the spiritual impact the literature is having on many lives. There are, as you probably know, well over three million prisoners in federal prisons across the fruited plains of this "land of the free"...and this is just in Federal facilities...not to mention the State and local jails.

By and large, these incarcerated men and women are forgotten by their families and former friends. They are the isolated fellow-humans who, in most cases, are behind bars, not because they committed violent crimes, but because they were caught with illicit drugs of one kind or another. And they are, typically, housed with murderers, child molesters and the dregs of the underworld.

It is an extremely needy people group and we must do all we can to reach as many as possible!

Thank you once again for your kind and generous part in the efforts of Bethany Prison Ministry!

In Christ, LeRoy Dugan

Jesus Was Seen Hanging Out With Whom???

By Lincoln Murdoch

Jesus was called many things. Some of them were good and accurate. Some were derogatory. Luke 7:34, "The Son of Man has come eating and drinking and you say, 'Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.'" Why do you suppose Jesus was called these things? Certainly because people were trying to discredit Him. Certainly because He was hated. Certainly because it was the Scribes and Pharisees that were doing the name calling. They didn't appreciate Jesus' very direct words to them.

But, maybe there was another reason. Let me suggest that Jesus was called those things because... He actually spent time with people who ate too much and got drunk...because He hung out with people who sinned and sinned a lot, not to mention spending time with people who ripped off and took advantage of others – the dreaded tax collectors. We haven't even mentioned...prostitutes. Well, I guess I just did.

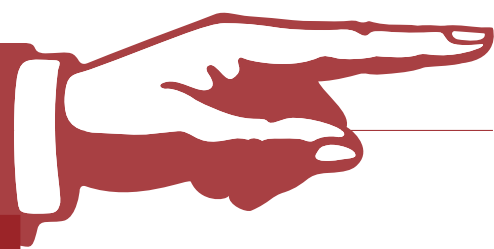
The point is this - Jesus was intentional about spending time outside of his evangelical, church community, with those who were completely unchurched. OK, so "evangelical church

community" didn't really apply back then, but it does now. I try to take time to intentionally be with those outside of any church and those who do not have friends who are followers of Jesus. I'm trying to develop friendships with as many of them as possible. If I have the opportunity at some point to share *Step Up To Life* with them, great. If not, at least I'm doing what Jesus did – spending time with people that are often shunned by the evangelical church. Do I have to put up with some coarse language and dirty jokes? Yep. I suppose Jesus heard the same kind of thing at times. My encouragement is to follow Jesus' method and spend time with sinners, those who drink and live for their appetites. Hang with them. Befriend them. Take an interest in their lives. Learn where their hearts have been wounded and what cares they carry. Often, they will open up their lives just due to the fact that they sense you genuinely care for them.

Then, maybe you'll have the honor of being called derogatory names, just like Jesus. And, know that those calling you names just might be...people inside the church.

2010 Banquet Memories

It's always good to reconnect with friends, see where SUTL has been in the past year and see where the future will take us.



More photos on last page.

Demand for SUTL Materials Forces New "Office" in Nairobi, Kenya

Jefferson Gathu, Director of Cistern Materials Center, oversees a ministry that prints gospel literature in 18 languages and distributes to 11 countries in Africa. Jefferson initially contacted us two years ago and since then has been a faithful printer, distributor and user of *Step Up To Life* materials. Working in English and Swahili, Cistern Ministries has contacts through the chaplains with 50,000 prisoners in 103 Kenyan jails. In addition, some 20,000 children of prisoners and prison staff are reachable through classes. Cistern Ministries also made the Adult and Children's versions available to many churches and Christian organizations. The following are quotes from Jefferson's letter to us:



Gathu teaches students in Nairobi, Kenya

"When we introduced SUTL tracts to the Kenya prisons, the ever-growing demand made us open a SUTL center in our Nairobi office, beside our outreach department. Churches of different denominations have been coming to get tracts. Every month, we have been receiving moving testimonies and positive remarks through letters posted or hand delivered to our offices.

After a medical camp outreach, we received many calls from interested partners requesting *Step Up To Life* tracts. Some calls were made by people requesting prayer for salvation after reading the tracts.

For the last six months of 2011, SUTL center has been busy giving out tracts to our prison setup, churches, and sending to our partners who follow up our evangelism and discipleship materials through post or Internet.

Following our latest outreach mission, which ended mid-week last week, we had a meeting on Friday with my staff, which I must say was necessitated by the

demand for more SUTL tracts and also for our upcoming conference. As you are aware, on November 4-6 we are planning a major event which will be a National Conference.* Brother Lincoln will also speak to athletes since you know Kenya is well known in athletics. There is a tract for athletes that we would like to have printed. We would like to do an evangelistic distribution to men and women who come as participants and spectators. Also, in our preparation for the next three months, we humbly request another reprint of your tracts. We need to replenish our supply and keep a larger quantity as we are planning to enlarge our capacity to prison wardens and his staff as the Lord leads."

**This is a SUTL Conference where our material will be used, taught, and distributed in English and Swahili. Pastors, teachers, Christian workers and athletes will be attending. Pray for this extensive opportunity.*



Join us...



...make your
reservations NOW for the
Annual Banquet on
September 16, 2011!



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