alpha center News
ALPHA CENTER
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SPRING 2019

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KEEP IN TOUCH

35 Years Alphabration
ANNUAL CELEBRATION DINNER

Alphabration Dinner

FRIDAY
APRIL 26, 2019

WELCOME RECEPTION
6:15 PM

DINNER & PROGRAM
7:00 PM

SIOUX FALLS
CONVENTION CENTER

FEATURED SPEAKER

DR. RON ARCHER

With a booming voice and raw emotion, Dr. Ron Archer is a spellbinding speaker and a force to be reckoned with whenever he takes the stage. He is a pro-life warrior, author and consultant in the United States, Latin America, Africa, Europe and South Korea. Dr. Archer has been connecting with audiences ever since he started preaching on Sunday nights in a Cleveland church when he was sixteen years old.

Dr. Archer now travels the globe with a message that remains the same: that God can use anyone, including someone like him–the unwanted child of a seventeen-year-old call girl–to share the hope that comes from believing in Jesus Christ.

Words from the Founders

Celebrating

35 Years

Join us at the Alphabration Dinner on Friday, April 26 and be the first to hear our big announcement!

FOCUSING ON THE NEXT 35 YEARS

March kicked off a year-long celebration of our 35 years of ministry (technically, 36 years because that first "unofficial" year we were helping women out of the basement of our home)! As we look back over the decades, we are still amazed that through distinct times of hardship, the Alpha Center has thrived. However, let us not reflect on the past, but focus on what's ahead in the next 35 years.

Over the years, directors of struggling pregnancy resource centers across the country have approached us for advice. Many are coping with burnout, wrestling with a lack of professionalism in their centers, and discouraged by the amount of staff and volunteer turnover. Our hearts break for them. Even as we excitedly share through various means about the vitality of Alpha Center's presence in our community, calls from centers desperate for guidance have resulted in many serious discussions as to what we can do to help. Now we are ready to take action.

Every day we will continue to carry on our life-changing work at a high level. In addition, we are partnering with Abstinence Clearinghouse to launch our newest program called VirTru. Join us at the Alphabration Dinner on April 26 and be the first to hear our big announcement. We will share exactly what VirTru is and will do, not just for Alpha Center, but also for pregnancy resource centers all over the nation. You see, our intention was never for Alpha Center's success to stay within the walls of our own community, but to share our knowledge, skills and compassionate care with others.

VIRTRU

Please continue to press on with us. Your partnership is about to have a major impact across our country–at such a vital time–and we need you with us every step of the way!

For HIS Unborn,
Dr. Allen & Leslee Unruh
Founders

Alphabration Dinner

JOIN US ON FRIDAY, APRIL 26

Celebrate Alpha Center's 35th Anniversary at our Alphabration Dinner at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. It will be an inspiring night featuring musical entertainment, ministry partner and client testimonies, and special guest, Dr. Ron Archer. Dinner is complimentary and because seating is limited, registration is required. Adults only, please. An opportunity to make a financial faith investment will be provided.

35 Years Alphabration ANNUAL CELEBRATION DINNER

REGISTER NOW! CHOOSE HOW:

- Visit alphacenterfriends.com
- E-mail info@alphacenter.org
- Contact Alpha Center at 605.361.3500

DON JACOBS

Master of Ceremonies

Don Jacobs grew up on a dairy farm just outside Albert Lea, Minnesota. He graduated from Brown Institute of Broadcasting in Minneapolis and started his career as a morning show host on KORN Radio in Mitchell, South Dakota. After working his way through sales and sales management, he became a minority owner in a broadcasting company in Sioux Falls that was later sold to Cumulus Media.

Today, Don is a Market Manager and Vice President for Townsquare Media, the third largest radio company in the United States with stations in 66 cities, including seven stations in Sioux Falls.

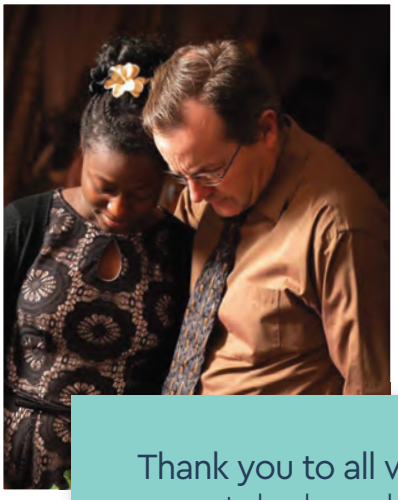
He has received several broadcasting and advertising awards and is the author of the book *Wisdom and Wealth*, which shares the relevance of living one's life through the wisdom of Solomon's Proverbs. Don and his wife Terry have been married 45 years and have two grown children and one granddaughter.

DAVID JONES

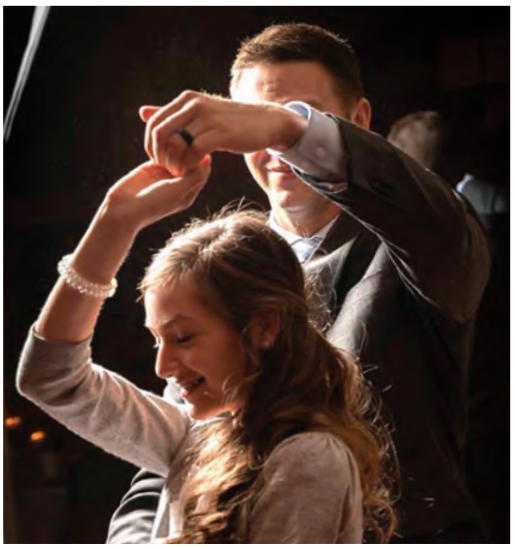
Welcome Reception Entertainment
6:15 – 6:45 PM

We invite you to come enjoy the smooth jazz sound of David Jones, local saxophonist, as he performs for our Welcome Reception. David has played around the country in various venues both as a solo artist and within his group. He is married with two sons and the owner of David Jones Fashions.

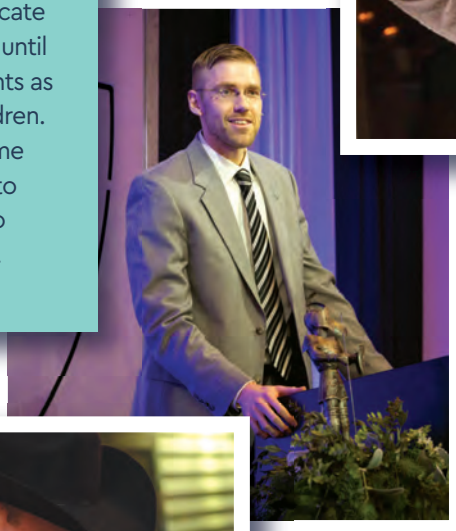
Abstinence Clearinghouse UPDATE



KNIGHT TO REMEMBER



Thank you to all who served, supported and prayed for our team as we hosted the *Purity Ball* for fathers and daughters on Saturday, February 23 and the *Knight to Remember* for mothers and sons on Saturday, March 9. Both the *Purity Ball* and *Knight to Remember* serve as unique opportunities to help communicate the importance of remaining abstinent until marriage and reinforce the role of parents as the primary sex educators of their children. It is our pleasure and privilege to come alongside parents as they continue to guide their sons and daughters into adulthood with passion and purity.



Purity Ball

VIEW ADDITIONAL EVENT PHOTOS ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!

FAMILY RESOURCE STORE

STORE HOURS:
Monday–Friday 8:30am-5:30pm
Phone: (605) 335-3643
Email: info@abstinence.net
www.abstinence.net

Ministry Partner Spotlight

The following letter was dropped off with a baby item donation at the Life 96.5 radio station during the Sioux Empire's Largest Baby Shower in January. This letter is printed with permission.

Dear Friends of Alpha Center,

A box of diapers. A bath towel. A dress. Some newborn sleepers. A stuffed animal. When I look at these items, they feel like a small offering. Nevertheless, I give them with my prayers for those who have chosen life and with praise to God for guiding me to a lesson in love.

It's a bit difficult to tell the story of how this donation came to be, but I feel God nudging me to share a bit of my testimony nonetheless. You see, for many years I battled infertility and pregnancy loss. My husband and I always felt called to have a family and although pregnancy with our first child didn't come easily, it did not compare to the journey that followed. My first miscarriage followed three years after the birth of our oldest child. While I was shocked and overwhelmed by the emotional impact of it, I was held up by a deep faith community and felt God's presence guiding me through–showing me the strong connection I could have with this child through Him. Over the years, while we continued trying to grow our family, we faced more devastating loss and I found myself on a path of suffering that overwhelmed me. Many days I would ask God to take the desire from my heart praying, "Lord, I don't even want to hope for this anymore."

All through this time, God's presence felt...quiet. While I was asking, "Where should I go? What should I do?", it seemed that my questions were answered with an unwavering stillness–until the day I stumbled across a devotion where the writer stated, "Sacrificial love begins in prayer and ends in service." The words called to me. I thought it was beautiful, if not entirely out of reach. It brought to mind people like Saint Teresa of Calcutta and others who dedicated their lives to radically follow Christ. I had no idea how to apply these words to my days at that time. At first I started randomly trying to serve everyone around me - surprising my husband with coffee and dropping items in the food pantry boxes - but I felt like I was still missing the point.

(Continued on page 7)

GIFTS GIVEN

GIVEN BY	IN MEMORY OF
Clarice Alons	Dwayne Alons
Jelen Family	Gerald Armitage
Rosemary & LeRoy Bender	Eugene & Laura Bender
Richard & Sally Day	Gerald Armitage
Wayne & Patti Dubro	O.S. Kuhns
DeNalda Fortuna	Rod Fortuna
Vern & Arlene Haase	Irene Schortzman & Alice Parlet
Lee & Betty Holst	Alice Cornelius
Pastor Bert & Evelyn Itterman	Bruce Itterman
Gary & Janice Jerke	Dave Harris & Edmund Bauder
Renzella Kempema	Richard Kempema
Vernon & Loretta Kraft	Martha Will
Henry & Carol Luebke	Joan Burns
Myron & Fran Moss	Michael Evan Moss
Pamela Myers	Carol Myers
Kenneth & Marianne Peters	Martha Will
Mary Ann Poppinga	Sharon Hunt
Mariette Rames	Earl Rames
Doris Schaffer	James Schaffer
Manford & Barb Steele	Sharon Fanning
Norman & Sherry Van Ravenswaay	Lena Van Ravenswaay
Loren & Ruth Van Roekel	Beverly Ver Steeg
Bertha & Marvin Van't Hof	Klaas & Alice Groen
Orville & Arlene Van't Hul	Audrey Jongetjes
Donna Zeeb	Irene Schortzman & Shirley Miller

GIVEN BY	IN HONOR OF
Rosemary & LeRoy Bender	Jerry & Dawna Rankin
Alfred & Gwen Braddock	Our 52nd Anniversary
Mark & Jean Conzemius	Dr. Glenn Ridder
Paul & Lona Edmundson	Our 55th Anniversary
Anna Frandle	Sean Sutton & Kelli Auseth
Anthony Haggar Sr. of Feeding Messiah's Sheep	God's Glory & Amazing Grace
Lucille & Bill Lengefeld	Joshua & Hanna
Steve Parezo of Gene's Studio	Steve & Ann Willis
Doug & Linda Schaeffer	Alfred & Leona Schaeffer
Charles R. Schriver	Norm & Judy Vis
Orville & Arlene Van't Hul	Callie Van't Hul's Birthday & Our Grandson Benjamin Edward Van't Hul
Roger & Carol Vis	Our Children: Evan, Gene, Dan & Mark

So Long, SAVIN!

Print. Copy. Scan. Print. Copy. Scan. Print. Copy. Scan. Print. Copy. Sca

Savin

Our current copy machine has been functioning diligently for 10 years and processed nearly 1 million copies!

We have even nicknamed him "Savin" and consider him a member of our Alpha Team. However, Savin is slowing down and making some very unusual sounds that signal it is time for retirement. We have faithfully maintained him, but the printer doctors say time is running out. We've decided on a replacement, but we need your help! Will you make a gift to Savin's retirement fund so we can make a smooth transition before he shuts down completely? Your gift makes you eligible to help choose Savin's Successor's new name!

Savin's Successor

(Continued story from page 5)

So I went back to the quote and filled in the part I had been missing. I hadn't begun with prayer. So I prayed to God, "Who do you want me to show love to?" His response was immediate - your other. Still far too caught up in myself, this left me blinking in lack of comprehension. It took time to weed through my life and identify my opposite, let alone what they could possibly need from me.

I thought of happily growing families that filled me with jealousy and longing when I would see them at church and local shopping spots. God called me to look past all of that, to see there is someone on the other end of my spectrum. Someone who found herself in an unexpected pregnancy. Someone who is scared. She might even feel completely unprepared. But she is trying to make the right choice. God wanted me to love her.

And so it became my very personal act of sacrificial love to begin purchasing items that I longed to buy for a child of my own and give them to the expecting mother who hadn't planned to walk this road right now. For each bad day, for the negative pregnancy test, for the positive pregnancy that unraveled too quickly, I purchased the items I am donating today. Each one represents a very hard day on my journey through infertility and child loss.

I can truly say that nothing in my life has turned suffering into joy so quickly. God has a very special way of sharing grace through this type of sacrifice, and I give thanks to Him for leading me out of that dark time to help me turn suffering into love for another. Although my children in heaven still outnumber those with us on earth, I am pleased to share that we recently celebrated the birth of our second child and continue to give praise for all God's gifts in our lives. I will continue to pray for your ministry and all those who come into your care.

Jennifer

STAY UP TO DATE

alpha center

3405 S. Kiwanis Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

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PLEASE PASS THIS NEWSLETTER ON TO EDUCATE AND MOTIVATE OTHERS.

A PDF version is available on our website: alphacenterfriends.com

UPCOMING EVENT

35 Years Alphabration
ANNUAL CELEBRATION DINNER

Alphabration Dinner

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CONVENTION CENTER

DINNER & PROGRAM
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Please visit our events calendar at www.alphacenterfriends.com for more details about these events.

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