



Rocky Mountain TEC

# The Fourth Day Newsletter

March 2010

## **RM TEC #125 is coming March 19<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup>!!!!**

Mark your calendars and come out in support of TEC 125!

Kick-off: Thursday night, March 18, 2010 – 7:00pm at **St. Thomas More in the Catacombs!!!**

Come for dinner at 6:30 and meet the team.

Hoot: Saturday night, March 20, 2010. Please arrive no later than 6:45pm, the Hoot begins at 7:00pm.

**Signs will be posted!**

### **WHEAT LETTERS**

We need your wheat letters by midnight, Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>!!

We need general letters that will be read aloud as well as individual wheat letters!

Email to: [wheat@rockymountaintec.net](mailto:wheat@rockymountaintec.net)

Mail them to:

Carol Engler/Kim Kendrick  
16363 E. Fremont Ave #823  
Aurora, CO 80016

Or bring them to the kickoff.

What do you put in the letter?

#### Ideas for individual letters:

- Provide encouragement
- Include your favorite scripture
- Let them know how you are sacrificing for them (your wheat)
- Share how TEC has helped you in your faith walk
- If this is their first TEC don't ruin any surprises!!!

#### Ideas for community letters:

- Pick a day and stick to the theme (Die, Rise, Go)
- Encourage the candidates and ask them to rely on the team
- Share scriptures
- Sign off with your full name and the TEC weekends you have attended.
- Keep the letter short and to the point. Remember several letters will be read at one time.
- Try to write/print clearly so it can be easily read.
- Be creative in your message of love.

### **Team for TEC 125**

**Lay Director :** Mary Ann Mahoney

**Asst Lay Dir. :** Natalia Fletcher

**Spiritual Dir. :** Fr. Joseph Tran

**Asst SD:** Angela Ibsen

**Music Dir.:** Brian Gonzales

#### Resources

Mike Anderson

Ed Contreras

Kendra Gonzalez

Bernadette Herrera

Nick Reinicke

Zasha Samuels

Cindy Shinnors

Sarah Shinnors

Steve Shinnors

Jesus Valdez

Megan Weber

#### Wheaties

Angie McCann

Chris Huyer

Lydia Fletcher

Isabella Kinney

Neely Meeks

Mark Morel

Adam Pardy

Kayla Schaff

Amy Shinnors

**Come and support TEC 125 at the Kick-off,  
Hoot, and write wheat letters!!!!**

*Unless a  
grain of  
wheat  
falls to  
the ground  
and  
dies...*



## Asking someone to go on a TEC retreat

Do you remember that one TEC retreat that changed your whole relationship with God? As you left on Sunday you were so on fire and so ready to start recruiting everyone you ever knew come on this retreat and have a similar experience.

Only when you started talking to people and trying to get them to go on the next TEC retreat you felt like you were trying to physically pull the mountain to Mohammed. They couldn't go this time, or they didn't think it was for them, even though they didn't know anything about TEC. We have all been there and we know it's difficult to get people to go on these retreats. So here are a few tips for encouraging someone to come on the retreat.

- **First and foremost in all things PRAY!!!** It is God who calls people to TEC. We are just the radio station he is using at the time.
- **Listen to your person you are recruiting.** They may have legitimate reasons for not making the retreat, family commitments, work, and vacations. If you are really listening to them you will soon be able to determine the legitimate reasons for not going from normal apprehension.
- **Be prepared.** The person you are recruiting may be apprehensive and give you a reason they can't come, such as "I can't afford it". Try to know as much about the program as you can so you can help answer their questions. (i.e. "TEC has scholarships!")
- **Be persistent.** If a person says, "No," listen to their reasons. If it is apprehension, address their concerns in a kind and knowledgeable fashion. If they have a legitimate reason for not coming then make a note and invite them to attend when the next weekend comes around. You may have to invite someone 10 times to get them on once, but as we all know persistence eventually pays off.
- **Happy recruiting!!**

### TEC Core Team

The TEC Core Team is responsible for serving the TEC community and planning events. If you have any ideas or requests for something that we should try and do better, please feel free to contact us. We thank you for the opportunity to serve our great community.

[coreteam@rockymountaintec.net](mailto:coreteam@rockymountaintec.net)

Angie McCann      Sean Roe  
Bernadette Herrera      Angie Ibsen  
Ed Herrera      Al Zuber  
Tim McCann

## **Twist and Shout...**

I hate colds! It always feels like somebody took pudding and injected it into my head to the point where if I sneeze my eyeballs will pop out. Then there are the dry itchy eyes, the aches, the lightheadedness and the difficulty breathing. Colds are a pain in the neck, head, and throat. All I want to do is sleep when I get one, and if I don't get to sleep then whining and complaining is next on my list.

As I work into the perfect whiny tone and I'm prepared to inflict my suffering on the world, I come across a story of a person who just found out they have cancer, or someone asking for prayers because they just lost their job. Suddenly my cold doesn't seem so bad, my suffering seems unimportant, and my focus goes from myself back to where it needs to be, on my brothers and sisters in Christ.

When Adam and Eve first sinned in the garden humanity suffered the condition of concupiscence, which is a bending and twisting of the spirit to where all it can see is itself. If you bend and twist your body too much, your muscles start to cramp and cause you pain. If you let that pain go on too long then it becomes a condition that we call suffering. The same thing happens when you twist the Spirit.

However when Christ came he taught us how to straighten our spirits so we can see beyond ourselves, and look to others to help them also straighten out. However to remain straight we must fight against the twisting, which causes pain. And if that pain goes on for very long we call it, ... anyone, ... suffering!

As this Lenten season continues, you might ask yourself. Is my suffering coming from my twisted spirit, or from the struggle against the twisting? Hope you have a blessed season. – Sean Roe

## **Couldn't attend TEC 125?**

Well mark your Calendars now for TECs 126, 127, and 128!!!

### TEC 126 – Summer 2009

Team Selection – May 27, 2010  
1<sup>st</sup> Team Meeting – June 12<sup>th</sup> – 9am–3pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> Team Meeting – June 26<sup>th</sup> – 9am–12pm  
3<sup>rd</sup> Team Meeting – July 10<sup>th</sup> – 9am–3pm  
Kick-off – July 22<sup>nd</sup> – 7pm  
Weekend – July 23-25, 2010

### TEC 127 – Fall 2010

*(Tentative dates)*  
Team Selection – August 19, 2010  
1<sup>st</sup> Team Meeting – September 11<sup>th</sup> – 9am–3pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> Team Meeting – September 25<sup>th</sup> – 9am–12pm  
3<sup>rd</sup> Team Meeting – October 9<sup>th</sup> – 9am–3pm  
Kick-off – October 21<sup>st</sup> – 7pm  
Weekend – October 22-24, 2010

### TEC 128 – Spring 2011

*(Tentative dates)*  
Team Selection – January 2011  
1<sup>st</sup> Team Meeting – TBD – 9am–3pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> Team Meeting – TBD – 9am–12pm  
3<sup>rd</sup> Team Meeting – TBD – 9am–3pm  
Kick-off – TBD – 7pm  
Weekend – March 2011

*Remember life gets busy quickly, so make your plans now!!!*

## Letter from the Lay Director of TEC 124:

Looking back on my TEC journey I can see many different ways that I could measure the distance I've come so far. My TEC crosses are a daily reminder and a recent milestone birthday clearly pointed out my involvement spans an awful lot of time. The numbers of miles between where my first TEC retreat was and where this most recent TEC has brought me are nothing short of amazing. Of all of these and other blessings that God has provided me for measuring this journey, my favorite way of measuring my journey has been in the number of friends that have made along the way. What God has given me through this TEC journey has been more than any dying, rising, and going that I have done. He has given me forgiveness and love time and again, he has given me family to know and love more deeply in a blessed way, and he has given me community to love and serve and to be loved and served from. This is the grace that TEC offered me once again on Rocky Mountain TEC 124.

Fortunately our God is a generous and loving God, and the gift of TEC 124 was not just a gift for me, but it was a gift to all who participated. The Team spent the usual time preparing, but the friendship and joy in Christ was obvious from the first meeting. The candidates arrived with an excitement and openness to not only embrace God but to sing His praise. Those helping in the kitchen did an outstanding and selfless job, and I thank them for their generosity and for the great food. The wheat offered up in the wheat letters of our community was truly appreciated. You may never get to know the good that your sacrifices make, but I can definitely say your actions contributed immensely to all on the weekend. There is always a joy walking into the Hoot to see who was able to come and celebrate with us, and we were all glad that so many came to sing and dance and laugh and play with us.

To tell you what made TEC 124 special could go on longer than I have room for here. Whether you want to know about Estrofest or what in the world CTLIBN means, it can be hard to explain. To describe what made Guppy so special or explain the lack of transparency with the 5 Somethings and the Invisible Joe could take weeks. We laughed at the ongoing ransom and emancipation of Jack and were nourished by the water bottle gifts provided by the Wheaties. We know that John won't eat his veggies (not that I can blame him) and the Wheat Team made the best poker hand ever. We laughed at the chicken hat and were astonished at the poster making skills of our spiritual directors. We were graced with the unexpected break-dancing skills of Father Dan and as a result found out that TEC 124 is where dreams come true.

As I mentioned, the gift of music flowed strongly on this weekend. During breaks music flowed. During music practice the weekend grew together and even had a guys vs. gals sing-off. Masses were exceptional, but the biggest and most incredible example of where our hearts were and where we wanted to be was in adoration after the Hoot. We heard on the weekend that, "You won't see the Holy Spirit coming," and although we didn't see the Holy Spirit, we were more than impacted by the love that He showed and shared through one another and for one another.

Each of us was blessed through this encounter with Christ, and we have been challenged to 'Go forth'. To all, keep the love God has shown you alive because God is how dreams come true and though you may look, you'll never see Him coming.

Tim McCann  
Lay Director, RM TEC 124

## Welcome TEC #124

Tim McCann  
Eileen Lindner  
Fr. Dan Norick  
John Wirtz  
Carole Engler  
Kim Kendrick  
Kelley Contreras  
Ryan Boh  
Tessa Contreras  
Josh Disberger  
Kendra Gonzalez  
Bernadette Herrera  
Chris Huyer  
Hallie Jefferson  
Isabella Kinney  
Joe Knickerbocker  
Elaine Lang  
Amanda Mortus



Chris Roth  
Shannon Angelo-Surber  
Beatrice Chavez  
Anayeli Gonzalez  
Daryn Hale  
Jana Harlow  
Lauren Hutton  
Tony Klava  
Brandon Nye  
Ceci Quintero  
Elizabeth Perille  
Katie Ploch  
Nick Reinicke  
Zascha Samuels  
Stephanie Siems  
Kevin Surber  
Kristi Ugran  
Lauren Wojtko

## If God is love, and love is patient...

Tim McCann

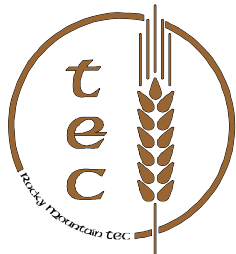
My wife, Angie, and I met some friends for dinner and a show recently and amidst the conversation a comment came up about TEC. The question/idea was how long is too long to come back and work a TEC weekend. They had known some people for whom it had been a while since doing that 'TEC thing' and there was some concern that came up in the discussion is that people who had been gone for too long might not feel welcome, they may not know many people, or they may not remember what they had to do. In a beautiful case of God's hand in motion, Angie and I had been discussing this topic over the past few months as she had just returned home to New Orleans to work a TEC weekend over the Martin Luther King holiday weekend – and she had just had to do what was being discussed. She had to go back and overcome the exact same fears. What if no one knows me? What will have changed? What do I have to contribute?

At this time of Lent and with Easter coming soon, similar feelings arise on many fronts. We are challenged to sacrifice – do without, do extra, and pray more. We are challenged to reconcile with God and heal that relationship even though the last thing we may want to do is to tell the priest what we have done. They are all hard things to do, but we can overcome them in our time. Life throws out the same kinds of obstacles. Taxes and bills are due. Blockbuster wants their movie back. Someone needs a favor. Monday morning comes around and that comfy, cozy bed tempts us to stay for a little longer and not deal with the traffic, the calls, and the crazy people.

In all of it, we most fear the changes life brings. We resist doing that which we don't know about because of our fear of the unknown. I've faced it many times – changing schools, joining groups at school, and even speaking up. I was so afraid of the change that might happen in my relationship with Angie that I had to write her a letter asking her to go with me to Senior Prom. I was afraid that she might say 'No'. I was afraid that something would happen and this would change my friendship with her. I was afraid that she might say 'Yes'. I hadn't yet learned the idea that God has a plan and it's much better and grander than anything I could think of. I hadn't learned to trust and know that His love would be enough to get me through the scary parts of my life.

The funny thing is that those times haven't been anywhere near as scary as I thought they would be. God is love, and love is patient. Fortunately, God was patient with me. When it came time to ask Angie to marry me, I still had fear, but I also had faith. When it came time to help lead a TEC community, I had fear, but I also had faith. When I moved to Colorado – away from anyone I really knew besides Angie, I had fear and I also had faith. My involvement in Rocky Mountain TEC continues to be a balance of fear and faith, but knowing that God is beside me and is patient with me as I continue to grow helps greatly.

For anyone who is unsure in coming [back] to TEC, remember the words of Jesus when He spoke to the disciples after filling their nets. "Do not be afraid. Come and follow me." God is patient with us, and His love for us is enough to do anything He gives us.



Rocky Mountain TEC  
c/o the Youth Center  
St. Thomas More  
8035 S. Quebec Street  
Centennial, CO 80112

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**