

Pastors Column

by Tony Hammon



A New Year, New Hope and a New Purpose

As we say so long to 2009 and reflect on the past year, we are reminded that it has been both rich and at the same time challenging. As well, it has been a year of progress at ICS. The *Family-Life Center* was completed and is in use every day; a new athletic *booster club* has allowed the reintroduction of football and cheerleading into our interscholastic sports programs; our newly formed *school board* is in its first year; *Off Balance*, our new Friday spiritual enrichment program has begun and our juniors and sophomores had outstanding PSAT and PLAN test scores.

But it has also been a year of tremendous challenge as the US and Keys economy has seldom been lower causing us to stretch our faith in many ways. We have seen faculty taking on extra responsibilities at school. We have an active volunteer base of hard working parents and friends who shouldered the load for one of the most successful *Christmas Festivals* in school history, clearing over \$50,000. Island Community Church took on the *Journey of Faith* capital campaign to complete construction of the Family-Life Center; and "*Step Up*" scholarships have made Christian education more affordable to many new families entering the school. These and many more strategies are keeping ICS strong and moving in a healthy new direction.

On the church side, a new initiative called *Island Connect* is being offered on Wednesday evenings that will offer something for everyone. Starting Jan. 13th, you are invited to join us for a free dinner at

5:45 PM, then participate in one of several classes designed to address various needs. Call the church office at 664-2781 or check our web site at Islandcommunitychurch.org for additional times and offerings.

I mention all of this to simply say that every penny, every sacrifice, is worth it a thousand times over. Stepping back in the ICS classroom this past fall and being around our students all day has reminded me in new and fresh ways how wonderful our kids are. I believe with all my heart that they are THE HOPE OF THE WORLD!

The character they are building, the skills they are leaning, and their Spirit that is growing inside each student will equip them with the tools they need to be the leaders of tomorrow.

Thank you for the high honor to be a part of your child's development and education. As we step into the 2010 calendar year and the second half of our school year, may we work together to provide the best possible education for our children.

My hope and prayers is that you will indeed have a purpose filled, 2010 filled with God's grace and hope. Happy New Year.

Tony



The Bridge

January 2010

Happy New Year!



The Monthly Newsletter of
Island Community Church - Island Christian School

Our Second Issue

Welcome to the second issue of *The Bridge*. Our goal is to bring together news and information about the student body at ICS, and the church family of ICC.

If you are an ICS student, alumni, school parent, church member or citizen in our community, please take a minute to read the articles in this issue. The ministry potential for our church and school is unlimited, and it begins with sharing information between all groups of people in our family - to *bridge* us together under God's divine love and reach out to others and expand His kingdom.

ICS Wins First Place at Holiday Festival

by Mary Allman

Friday, Dec. 4th was a big day for ICS. The school participated in the annual Holiday Festival at Founder's Park. Students and volunteers created a float which won first place in the parade! An award was presented to the school by the Islamorada Chamber of Commerce recogniz-



ICS Students win first place at Founder's Park Winterfest with their black light, puppet animated float entitled *Under the Sea*. Mermaid Kaylyn Wyatt and eight other kids were working puppets and props to music from Disney's *Little Mermaid*.

ing the achievement. Thank you to all who helped with the float.

In addition, the Early Childhood classes worked throughout the week to create their snowman that also won first place in the Snowman Building Competition at the Holiday Festival! The Snowman included pictures of our youngest students during their days at ICS. These two awards are reminders that ICS produces quality students. Thank you to all who helped.



Valentines Raffle

Two night stay at Hawk's Cay Resort in a three bedroom villa, a dolphin swim for two at Dolphin Connection, a parasail trip for two at Sundance Water sports, and \$100 gift certificate for dinner at Alma Restaurant. How does that sound for a Valentine's Day Getaway Package!

This fabulous prize will be raffled off to a lucky ticket holder, on February 14th. Tickets are available



from any ICS student for \$25, or buy 5 tickets for \$100. Prizes will also be given to the class that sells the most tickets.

Proceeds for this raffle will help fund the ICS teachers health insurance package and general operating expenses. Please help by purchasing a chance to win a wonderful getaway at Hawks Cay!

Did you know, Island Community Church recently celebrated its 41st Birthday?

Have you been to the school website lately?

www.Islandchristian.org

Dr. Kinzy Jones to Speak at Next Parent Teacher Meeting Jan 14th.

In an effort to expand the interest of our quarterly Parent Teacher Meetings, a new format will highlight guest speakers. Parents will have a chance to meet with teachers in their classrooms, then adjourn to the church sanctuary for announcements and the speaker presentation.

Dr. Kinzy Jones, from Florida International University, will speak on the importance of math and science in today's academics. Dr. Jones is chairman of the nano-technology dept. at FIU and recently spoke at an upper keys Rotary luncheon. His presentation is truly fascinating and is open to students and the general public.

Upcoming PTMs are scheduled for March 23 and May 11th. The meeting series will continue with more relevant guest speakers.

Dr. Kinzy Jones

Dr. Jones holds a Masters degree from FSU and Ph.D from MIT in Engineering and Materials science.

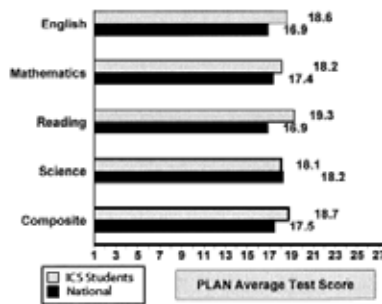


He has served 17 Years as professor at FIU as Dean of Engineering, biomedical research science and nanotechnology. He holds 4 US patents, has written countless publications and received numerous technical honors and awards.

PTM: Thursday Jan. 14th 6:00 - 6:45 pm: Parents to meet with teachers in their child's classrooms. Informal discussions and a chance to ask questions.

7:00- 8:00pm: Opening remarks, announcements - keynote speaker to address parents, students and general public. *Plan to Attend!*

also received information to assist with college major and career choices based on their academic plans and interests. Way to go ICS Students!



ICS Students Beat National Average

Last Nov, the 10th & 11th graders completed the PLAN evaluation which is a practice version of the ACT College entrance test. As shown in the adjacent chart, the students scored at or above the national average in every category. This is a great indication of their future success at the college level and securing college scholarships. In addition to the scores, each student

January 2010 ICS Schedule at a Glance

- 1/12 Girls Soccer HOME 4pm
- 1/13 2nd Quarter Ends
- 1/13 **Island Connect - Fish Fry**
Family Life Center
Dinner 5:45 - Free
- 1/14 **Parent Teacher Meeting:**
6:00 Parents meet with teachers in classrooms
7:00 announcements and guest speaker. Church bldg.
- 1/15 Girls Soccer HOME 4pm
Boys Basketball HOME 6pm
- 1/18 No School - MLK Day
- 1/19 Girls District Soccer Away
Boys Basketball Home 6pm
- 1/20 **Island Connect Seminars**
Dinner 5:45 - Series 6:30
- 1/22 Report Cards Mailed
Boys Basketball HOME 6:30
- 1/23 SAT College Board Testing
- 1/30 Grandparents Open House
- 2/2 Boys Basketball HOME 6pm
- 2/4 Boys Basketball HOME 6pm

only HOME sporting events highlighted for the COMPLETE School Schedule, go to www.Islandchristian.org

Island Connect Begins Jan. 13th

Starting Wednesday January 13th, Island Community Church will offer a series of faith based seminars called **Island Connect** covering a range of topics of interest for nearly everyone. Strengthening your relationship with God, the dynamics of marriage and family, personal financial peace, God's healing power of recovery and more. One night a week for 20 weeks: friends, family, food, fellowship and faith.

Fish Fry to Kick Off Island Connect Series: Jan. 13th

Pastor Tony Hammon would like to invite parents and students from the school, members of the church body and anyone from the community to attend a Free Fish Fry at the Family Life Center on Wed. Jan 13th at 5:45 to kick off the series and explain each discussion group in more detail.

The actual series will begin the following Wed. Jan. 20th. Each week a meal will be provided at 5:45 pm in the Family Life Center with classes following at 6:30. There is a nominal charge of \$3 for adults and \$2 for kids, to cover the expenses for the meal. The series will last 20 weeks. Be sure to attend one of these series topic sessions.

Beginning Wednesday January 13, 5:45 pm
Family Life Center

Island Connect Series Topics

Financial Peace University

This significant seminar features money management expert, best selling writer, and radio/TV personality **Dave Ramsey** who will outline how to maintain emotional, spiritual and financial stability in our lives. This series costs \$93 per couple. Understanding the forces behind financial disaster and using the knowledge of God's principles to shape real life situations.



Dave Ramsey

Marriage and Family

Pastor Tony Hammon leads this study that is timely and dynamic for issues that all of us face in today's confusing world. His unique testimony disseminates an important message of hope, love and understanding. Tony holds 3 degrees including a Master's in Educational Administration.

Celebrate Recovery

Encourage fellowship as we celebrate God's healing power accepting his grace and solving life's problems. Open the doors by sharing experiences, strengths and hopes with one another applying Biblical principles for spiritual growth. Facilitated by Bonnie Young.

The Purpose Driven Life

"What on Earth Am I Here For?" You were not an accident, and God gives you unique talents that only you can strengthen and share with the rest of your world. By following Rick Warren's remarkable book, you will experience personal renewal as you discover your true purpose in life. Group leaders, Michael and Janis Walsh.

Awana: Life-Defining, Long Lasting

When parents, church and school teach God's Word to kids in their formative years, they emerge into young adults with steadfast character and strong biblical faith. Author Stacia McKeever and cartoonist Dan Lietha will answer questions of the Christian faith, such as "Where did God come from?" and "How did we get the Bible?" Susan Walker, leader.

Partners in Prayer

If your devotional life is starving in the area of prayer and you want to tap into the power and protection prayer provides, John Maxwell's popular book *Partners in Prayer* provides insight into the fundamentals of prayer, improving personal prayer life, praying for others, building a prayer partners ministry in the local church and encouraging prayer revival nationwide.

TRUTH

To assist you in taking significant steps in your lifelong journey of following Christ. Island Community Church exists to help people become mature, joyful, confident followers of Jesus Christ. In the Gospels, Jesus taught two great truths that furnish the core values of ICC. They are known as the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

Mark 12:30-31 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this: "Love your neighbor as yourself." There is no commandment greater than these.