



# Living Water News

March 2008

Decisions come in all shapes and sizes. Some are minor and have little or no lasting impact: What should I have for lunch? What should I do this weekend? Others can affect your life in a major way: Where should I go to college? Whom should I marry? Some decisions seem minor at first, but turn out to be quite major. Others seem major, but turn out to be no big deal. The average person makes decisions every day, often without even realizing it. Should I speak up or keep my mouth shut? Should I help that person or ignore his need? Those are just some of the choices we make instinctively.

Of course, not all decisions are made this way. Some require serious thought. Some involve scary leaps of faith and can tie your stomach into knots. Situations like those can make you forget how amazing it is to be able to make decisions at all. Especially when you consider the alternative, God could've laid out our lives like an instruction manual: START AT POINT A. GO TO POINT B. He could have preprogrammed every moment of our lives and made us robots, slaves to his commands. But he didn't do that. When he placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, he gave them one rule: Don't eat from the forbidden tree. But then he left it up to them to decide whether or not to obey him. He gave them the freedom to choose.

God wants us to choose wisely and he's equipped us to choose wisely. But if we still choose unwisely, God won't interfere. Consider the two thieves who were crucified next to Jesus. (You'll find their story in Luke 23:32-43.) One thief mocked and hurled insults at Jesus. The other thief responded, in essence, "Why are you mocking him? You and I are getting what we deserve, but this man is innocent." He then turned to Jesus and said, "Remember me when you come into your kingdom."

"Today you will be with me in paradise," Jesus promised him.

One man chose to accept Jesus; the other chose to reject him. Notice that Jesus honored both choices. He didn't pressure the first thief to change his opinion. He didn't make threats, and he didn't beg. Instead, Jesus allowed the man to make up his own mind. That's how freedom of choice works. Of course, with freedom comes responsibility. Every choice contains an, if, and a then: If you choose to do this then that will happen; if you choose to do that, then this will happen.

The end result is called a consequence. If you want to make wise choices, then you have to consider the consequences of your decisions. Some consequences are positive (as the faithful thief on the cross discovered), some are negative (as the other thief discovered), and some are neutral.

The good news is God has given us plenty of guidance and resources for making good decisions with positive consequences. He filled his Word with wisdom. He created us with brains capable of computing and processing the choices life throws our way. And he made it possible for us to consult and explore his will before we make any decision.



Sunday March 2<sup>nd</sup> we'll be meeting at the church at 3:00pm & going to Veteran's Park to play Frisbee Golf! We'll play, have a picnic, & have our lesson there. It's gonna be TONS of fun so bring a friend!

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The choir Easter Cantata will be held March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the church. We've postponed the Digital Scavenger Hunt until April to make sure ALL youth are at the cantata.

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I will be going out on maternity leave sometime in March (hopefully VERY soon!) I'd like to say a big THANK YOU to Dorsia for taking over the youth while I'm out on maternity leave. I'll be dropping by sometime with the baby for everyone to see & just to say hello, so make sure you're there every week & support Dorsia.

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## SPOTLIGHT ON Danielle Atkinson



**Hobbies:** Sports

**Favorite Book:** Gone with the Wind

**Movie:** Fool's Gold

**Sports:** Softball & Basketball

**Food:** Pizza

**Band/Music:** Good Charlotte

**Ice Cream:** Chocolate

**Color:** Pink

**Drink:** Chocolate Milk & Mt Dew

**TV Show:** Hanna Montana

**Junk Food:** Nacho Cheese Dorito's

# Living Water Youth

Our youth group is open to all students from 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. Unless noted otherwise, all activities follow regular Sunday schedule & are held in the Oasis from 5:30pm-7:00PM. Our program includes games, fellowship, study, food, and worship. Everything is in place and all we need is YOU! Questions or comments? Contact:

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## March

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
						1
2 <b>3:00 Frisbee Golf @ Veterans Park &amp; lesson</b>	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Admin Board 5pm <b>Youth 5:30-7pm</b>	10	11	12 CA-Student Holiday/Faculty Workday	13	14	15 <b>Melissa's Due Date!</b>
16 <b>Choir Easter Cantata 7pm</b>	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 <b>Easter-NO YOUTH</b> <hr/> 30 <b>Youth 5:30-7pm</b>	24 CA-Spring Break 24-28 <hr/> 31 Worth-Spring Break 31-4th	25	26	27	28	29