



THIS MINISTRY THAT WE SHARE

OUR MANNER OF LIFE

October – November 2013

***“Only let your manner of life
be worthy of the gospel of Christ” (Philippians 1:27a)***

2013	
Regional Mission Summit	October 19 Ascension Huntsville, AL
Black Churchmen's Conference	October 21-23 CCAL Selma, AL
Jr. High Youth Gathering	November 8-10 Camp Blue Lake near Andalusia, AL
Jr. High Youth Gathering	November 22-24 Camp Tall Timbers near Alexandria, LA
Ordination & Installation SMP Vicar Jack Onkka	December 8 Grace Lutheran Church – Pensacola, FL
2014	
Ordination & Installation SMP Vicar Brock Cain	January 12, 4pm Lutheran Church of the Pines – Waveland, MS
Commissioning & Installation DCE Amanda Bradley	January 19 Grace Lutheran Church – Pensacola, FL
So. Dist. Youth Workers Conference	Jan. 31-Feb. 1 So. Dist. Mission Center – Slidell, LA
So. Dist. Senior Youth Gathering	July 10-13 Camp Restore New Orleans, LA

As Christians our manner of life springs from a well of inner conviction about who God is and who we are. What kind of heart attitude – or manner of life, as Paul puts it – would be appropriate for us to embrace, as ones who have received the Gospel of Christ? I would like to suggest that high on our list of desirable attitudes should be a grateful heart.

The Scriptures show us the unfortunate contrasts in the attitudes of God's people. The nation of Israel, jubilant at one moment because of their deliverance from slavery in Egypt, is murmuring against God only a short time later. The workers in the market place are overjoyed to have found a day's work in the vineyard. By the end of the day, however, they feel the owner has treated them unfairly. In both cases the people of God have enjoyed God's deliverance, God's love, and God's provision. Regrettably, they lack a grateful heart. It is woefully easy for us to forget all the good gifts that God has given us. We have a unique ability to center our minds on the negative and concentrate on what we don't have.

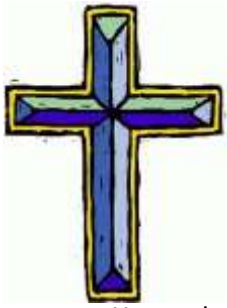


What is the route away from this angry, accusing manner of life? We need look no further than the Psalms. The Psalmist writes, “The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds. The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down” (Psalm 145: 13b, 14). When we are assailed by thoughts that accuse God, we need to remember the gifts and the grace of God that have always filled our lives. Praising God will help to lift us out of the pit we dig in our times of self-pity. Somehow remembering and rehearsing who God is helps us to remember who we are – beloved children of a loving and gracious Father. Join me my beloved brothers and sisters in saying “Praise God from whom all blessings flow!”

***Prayer: Lord, you have always provided for all that I have needed.
Grant me a grateful heart, a heart that is always ready to
acknowledge your goodness and love. Amen.***



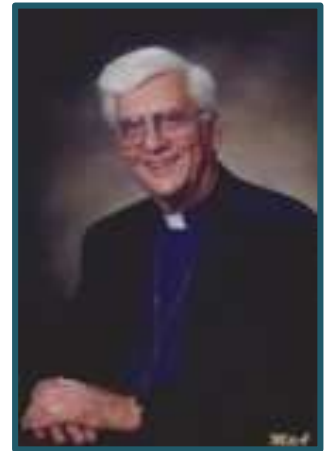
Rev. Kurtis D. Schultz, Southern District President



IN MEMORIAM

✠ **The Reverend Robert Louis Dittmann** ✠
August 16, 1928 – September 24, 2013

Rev. Robert Louis Dittmann was called home to be with his Heavenly Father on September 24th, 2013. He leaves to mourn his loss his wife of sixty years, Janice, and their four children: daughters, Lizabeth and Kathryn, and sons, Robert, Jr. and David, and their families which included the blessings of 11 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.



Birthplace: New Orleans, Louisiana

Graduated: Concordia Seminary – Saint Louis, Missouri

Ordained: 1952

Congregations and Positions Served:

- St. Paul's/Mt. Calvary – Ponchatoula/Hammond, LA (1952-1954)
- Redeemer – Alexandria, LA (1954-1962)
- Grace – Mobile, AL (1962-1981)
- Southern District Representative for Aid Association for Lutherans
- Holy Cross – Mobile, AL (1984-1995)

Emeritus: 1995

Funeral Service: September 30th, 2013, at Grace Lutheran Church – Mobile, Alabama

Officiant: Rev. Dr. Arlyn Sturtz – Pastor, Grace-Mobile, AL

Lector: Rev. David M. Tilney – Pastor, Ascension-Daphne, AL

Pastor Dittmann was known to be a kind and faithful pastor not only to the members of his congregations but also to their surrounding communities. He had an appreciable sense of humor and an interest in the New Orleans Saints football team. In 2002, he received his golden stole to commemorate his 50th anniversary in the ministry. He was baptized and confirmed at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in New Orleans, LA by Rev. Miles S. Gebauer.

BEREAVEMENTS

✠ **Rev. William Martin Childress** joined his fellow Saints, after a brief illness, on September 26th in Clarksville, TN, at the age of 74. Pastor Childress served **Grace Lutheran congregation in Houma, LA**, from 1997-2001. He leaves to mourn his loss his wife of over 50 years, Carol, and two sons, William and Brad and four grandchildren.

✠ **Mr. Tim Hermetz, son of Mrs. Hal Hermetz (Emeritus – Cullman, AL)** received his Crown of Glory on October 9th. The angels rejoiced as they welcomed him home. His funeral service was held at St. Paul's Lutheran in Cullman, AL, with the Rev. John Bussman and Rev. Eddie Scheler officiating. Tim fought a valiant fight against cancer undergoing many experimental treatments.

We pray:

Lord God, we thank You for all the mercies You granted to our Christian brothers, the Rev. Robert Dittmann, Rev. William Childress, and Mr. Tim Hermetz during their earthly lives, especially for calling them to faith in Jesus Christ. Comfort their families and all who mourn their deaths with the hope of the glorious resurrection and a joyful reunion in heaven. Amen.

***SIGNIFICANT* DISTRICT & CHURCH EVENTS**

- ✓ **CHECK OUT THE RENEWED SOUTHERN DISTRICT WEBSITE**
- ✓ www.southernlcms.org
- ✓ Developed by **Rev. Daniel Carlson** of Birmingham, AL (**Hope** and **St. Paul**) and So. Dist. President **Rev. Kurtis Schultz**.

GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME

A charter bus carrying Concordia College Alabama football players caught fire September 21st after a tire blew out on Alabama Highway 219. It was on its way to a game against Miles College in Fairfield, Al. No football players were injured; but, all of the team's equipment was destroyed in the blaze. A Volunteer Fire Department spokesman said the fire started on the rear drivers-side. "It was still flamed up when we got there . . . [the bus] is completely destroyed."

After losing all its uniforms and equipment, \$90,000 worth, the Concordia-Selma football team received a shipment of replacement equipment and apparel from Adidas, a sports apparel company. Adidas supplied



them with 15 to 20 boxes full of jerseys, pants, shoes, gloves and pads. Many of the players' personal belongings such as cell phones and MP3 players stored in a bin on top of the bus went up in flames.

In the days since the incident, the team has drawn closer and others have been drawn to it, donating everything from shoulder pads to girdles. "It's amazing, as a coach, you know, at first, you're sitting there and you're thinking, 'Oh gosh, your whole program's shut down,'" Concordia Coach Lee said. "But now you're starting to see it's more of a country (national) thing now. I've had phone calls from New Jersey, New York. I get goosebumps. You look around and you say, 'People don't care.' People do care." Check out Concordia's web site: <http://www.ccal.edu/>.

WATCH FOR:

- ❖ **October 27, 3 PM – 88th Anniversary and Harvest Homecoming – Holy Cross, Camden, Al**
- ❖ **October 27, 4 PM – Joint Congregation Lutheran Reformation Festival – Our Savior, Crestview, Fl**
- ❖ **November 3, 4 PM – 93rd Anniversary and Harvest Home Celebration – Faith, Mobile, Al**

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS TO LCMS DISTRICT PRESIDENTS MEET IN SLIDELL AT THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT MISSION CENTER

The Southern District Mission Center in Slidell, La., was host to the annual conference for the Administrative Assistants to LCMS District Presidents September 23rd to September 26th. This was the first time that the conference met at a district office. Usually, the conference is held in St. Louis at the International Center. Thirty-three districts were represented; two of the districts sent two representatives.



The purpose of these conferences is to learn updates to current human resource systems using the software program FileMaker Pro. Other information from various synod departments is shared with the group. The Rev. Dr. Lane R. Seitz is the mentor of the group. He is the former Minnesota South District President and currently serves as Information and

Technology Consultant to the Council of Presidents of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. A centralized database for Pastor Information Forms (PIF) and Self-Evaluation Tools (SET) was the main topic of discussion.



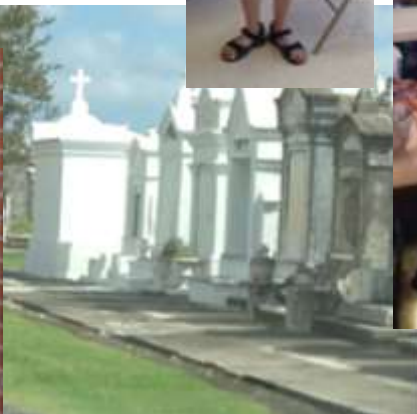
As always, those in attendance enjoyed the camaraderie of those who work in the same position in their offices. The sharing of helpful ideas is a real plus. This conference is always a valuable networking tool.

On Monday (9/23) “Newbies” were in training, while others did some touring in New Orleans. Tuesday morning Southern District President opened with the devotion, *Prayers for Peace*. Then it was training, training, training for everyone, which was intense. The intensity was interrupted by Rev. Paul Ernewein from The Village Church – Lutheran in Lacombe, La. He served chicken and sausage gumbo, shrimp creole, salad, French bread and an absolutely fabulous bread pudding with your choice of a rum sauce or a white chocolate sauce.

A visit to Camp Restore took place on Wednesday in which the DPAAAs participated in various Servant Events. Some painted, some served at a local food bank, some went to a senior center for devotions and bingo. At noon, the staff at Camp Restore and their noted chef, Miss Lorraine, served an out-of-this-world meal which included Crawfish Monica, Chicken Alfredo, artichoke casserole, salad with an artichoke dressing and, of course, the infamous bread pudding. WOW! During lunch Mrs. Kathy Wendling, Volunteer Coordinator, introduced the formation of the camp and Rev. David Goodine, Executive Director of Camp Restore, added his comments, stressing the importance of active listening to victims of disasters. Check out www.camprestore.org.

After lunch, all traveled to the French Quarter for sightseeing and, of course, beignets!

Thursday (9/26) until noon was allocated to more training. At noon everyone prepared for transport to their respective airport – Gulfport, Ms. or New Orleans, La.





Gal 3:26

Have **YOU** completed **YOUR** registrations for the
2013 Southern District Junior Youth Gatherings?

Everything is now to be done online.

Yes this is new, but don't be afraid!

It is very simple and easy to complete.

Go to www.southernlcms.org and click on the youth tab.

Pastor Chris Brynestad, St. Paul's – Decatur, AL, will be presenting:

**“Identified: Standing Before God and
Before the World”**

“You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:26

If you have any questions about the registration process, please call Ronnie Trauth at the Southern District office. Her direct # is [985-605-5404](tel:985-605-5404).

The dates are:

November 8-10, 2013
@ Blue Lake Camp & Retreat Center
(just south of Andalusia, AL)
REGISTRATION DEADLINE
OCTOBER 25

November 22-24, 2013
@Tall Timbers Conference Center,
Woodworth, LA (just south of Alexandria)
REGISTRATION DEADLINE
NOVEMBER 7

MARK your calendar for the

2014 SOUTHERN DISTRICT YOUTH WORKERS CONFERENCE

This annual event is for volunteer and professional youth leaders.

January 31 – February 2 @ the district offices in Slidell, LA

Watch for further updates.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT SENIOR YOUTH GATHERING

July 10-13, 2014 @ Camp Restore in New Orleans, LA

The planning team has begun making preparations.

Share the dates now with your youth leaders.

Further information will be released soon.



ILLNESSES AND INJURIES

We pray for those continuing their fight against cancer:

- Rev. Jack Betz (Emeritus, Miramar Beach – FL)
- Rev. Jerry Conley (Emeritus – Marianna, FL)
- Mrs. Gloria Moritz, wife of Rev. Victor Moritz (Emeritus – Metairie, LA)
- Rev. Sidney Ponseti (Emeritus – Baton Rouge, LA)
- Rev. Ed Rogers (Emeritus – Ozark, AL)

We pray for those who are coping with health issues:

- DCS Margaret Anderson – Birmingham, AL, will undergo another leg surgery on October 31st.
- Rev. Jesus Gonzales – Monte de los Olivos-Metairie, LA, recently underwent surgery.
- Commissioned Minister Ray Hauer – Huntsville, AL, suffers with congestive heart failure.

We praise God that **Rev. Ken Buth** is now home in Sulphur after being in and out of hospitals in the Dallas area. His heart issues are now stabilized and he is, oh-so-happy, to be home! He is pastor of **Trinity – Sulphur, LA**.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 (NIV)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Rev. Stephen and **Mary Lou Linck** at **Grace Lutheran** in **Pensacola** welcomed Cecile-Grace Lone Linck on October 2nd. She is their second grandchild. Parents are Nicholas and Emily Linck. Cecile-Grace weighed in at 7 lbs. and 2 ozs.

Rev. John and **Emily Bussman** are expecting their first child in the spring. John serves St. Paul's in Cullman, AL.

OUR STEWARDSHIP OF HIS RESOURCES

DISTRICT/SYNOD MISSION SUPPORT TRENDS			
	2011	2012	2013
Total Budget	\$1,125,000	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000
Budgeted Income through 10/15	\$ 843,750	\$ 824,500	\$ 824,500
Actual Income through 10/15	\$ 723,405	\$ 758,067	\$ 742,018

THE GENEROSITY MONK VISITS NORTHERN LOUISIANA

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE Are you tired of encouraging your congregation members to tithe and finding yourself continually frustrated? Or do you shy away from the topic altogether? Perhaps it's time to focus on the biblical principle of generosity, a fruit of the Spirit, rather than the tithe that our self-righteous sinful hearts can easily turn into a legalistic attempt at "pleasing" God.



Testimony + Time + Talent + Treasure

GENEROSITY MONK Dr. Gary Hoag, whom I met at our LCMS stewardship conference last February, where he was the keynote speaker, found time to visit our dual Circuit conference here in northern Louisiana earlier this month. He uses the handle "the generosity monk" and you can find out more about him and the books that he has authored at his website: generositymonk.com.

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT Gary pointed out that Galatians 5:22 refers to generosity as a fruit of the Spirit, although it is usually translated "goodness." So with the understanding that generosity is actually a fruit of the Spirit, we were able to explore a Christ-centered love and trust approach to the stewardship of our financial blessings.

THE PURSE Of course, you and I know that stewardship includes all of our gifts. I would suggest, however, that we often use this truth as an excuse to avoid the topic of a God-pleasing use of money altogether. Jesus was not afraid to speak of it and neither was Paul. I remember hearing a quote from Luther in which he said the last thing to be converted in a person's life is "the purse."

GOSPEL CALL So the conference was challenging; not in a "you must obey" approach but as a Gospel call to a deeper trust in Christ. After all, he can't be trusted!

FOUR SHIFTS FOR GRACE-FILLED, SPIRIT-LED GENEROSITY

THE FIRST SHIFT...that we need to experience through the working of the Spirit is changing our focus from "law to love". The Spirit wishes to release believers from legalistic approaches to all parts of our life in Christ (Galatians 5:1).

THE NEXT SHIFT....in this "freeing" process is from a focus on "percentage giving" to "participation" in the ministry and mission of Christ's church. Interestingly, you will find that the only time Jesus uses the concept of "tithe," He is confronting the self-righteous who tithe even on their "mint and spice" while neglecting mercy and justice. Their sin was one of pride in which they could simply too hectic hiding off their list of things they needed to do to please God. The scriptural approach frees the Christian to participate in God's mission because God has blessed us so freely.

OBLIGATION TO OPPORTUNITY.....Following closely on the heels of this concept is the shift from "obligation to opportunity." This is a change in the Christian's frame of mind from "I got two" to "I get to." Certainly this shift would only be possible through the Gospel, as with all the others.

CHANGING OUR FOCUS.....The fourth shift Gary believes the Spirit wants to bring about in our life and our approach to generosity is changing our focus from the earthly to the eternal parentheses (Galatians 6:8 -10).

GENEROSITY PRINCIPLES.....The seminar continued with an exploration of generosity principles from the Old Testament, the Gospels, and the early church. Of course, Gary pointed out that it is important to avoid harping on the topic of financial generosity in particular sermons but he encouraged weaving the topic into most of our sermons and teaching. Jesus had no trouble appealing to us in this area of where true treasures are found and it would be a shame to avoid this topic and deprive our hearers of a great area of joy in their life. After all, have you ever met a grumpy generous person?

Submitted by Pastor Paul McComack, Trinity-Monroe, La
Stewardship Committee Member



NEW LCMS APP NOW AVAILABLE

Free app features church locator, news, devotions, connection points, giving opportunities.
Available on both the Apple© and Android™ (Google Play™) app stores.
To get the app, search "LCMS" on the Apple or Android app stores or visit
www.lcms.org/resources/mobileapps.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT LUTHERAN SCHOOLS

Lutheran schools and early childhood ministries are mission outposts. 16 school ministries in the Southern District have filed their 2013-2014 to date. Preschools report reported 15.8% of the students as having no church membership. For reporting schools, this figure stands are 20.5%. It is highly probable that the percentages are much higher as a family may list a church membership but are not actively participating in worship or church activities. Mission outposts establish specific strategies to build and to strengthen relationships in sharing Jesus.

Educator of the Year Award – The Southern District annually gathers nominations for four categories of educators. The time has arrived to once again exercise your privilege of nominating a fellow faculty member or fellow educator in the Southern District as the **Educator of the Year for 2013**. We encourage each school/early childhood center to make sure that it provides at least one nominee for consideration. The nomination process is open to coworkers, parents, and congregation members. The deadline for nominations is November 20, 2013.

National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) - St. Paul's Lutheran – Cullman, AL (Laurie Ninke – principal) hosted a site visit for accreditation on October 13-15. The site visit team was chaired by Cal Behrens (St. Paul – New Orleans). The team members were Monica Naatz (Grace – Huntsville); Nancy Neuendorf (St. Paul – Decatur); Josh Swartz (Grace – Huntsville), and Malinda Yarbrough (Sacred Heart – Cullman). NLSA is designed to encourage school ministries to participate in ongoing school ministry improvement. The District NLSA Commissioner is Donna Behnken.

Revitalization / Transformation

I recently heard a statistic that 10% of conference participants can run with information and implement in their own setting. 50% choose to do nothing with what was heard or presented. 40% will do something if they have a coach/mentor or support group. Conferences generally will not produce a turnaround.

TCN offers options for coaching along with some tools for revitalization/transformation. As we are approaching a new calendar year, congregations can choose to use the Hinge Survey Assessment Survey for planning and setting goals. TCN offers the opportunity for pastors/churches in the TCN process to participate in the Hinge Factors Assessment Survey. Through participating in this assessment, the congregation receives insightful feedback on how your congregants score the pastor and their congregation on the 8 Hinge Factors, which have been confirmed statistically to impact your effectiveness in outreach to the community. The cost of the survey ranges from \$150-\$200, depending on average worship attendance.

Information is power, and the goal is to empower the pastor and congregation to reach your community with the Gospel. The Church Assessment will help you understand your strengths and how to capitalize on them, while learning how to build up the areas where improvement is needed.

Coaching is a vital part of helping your congregation to make the transformation to becoming more effective at sharing the Gospel with those who need to know Christ. The Church Assessment will be an invaluable tool for you and your coach, as you work together to build skills and sharpen focus while strengthening accountability!

How it works: Your church members (minimum of 30 depending on the number of your regular worship attendance) take a 10-15 minute online survey. Paper surveys may be ordered as well. When the surveys are completed and the assessment is finished, you will receive a diagnostic assessment which will give you insights on how you are doing in each of the 8 hinge factors. You will also see how your results compare to the average scores of other churches in the TCN process. Click [here](#) for more information and how to order the TCN Hinge Survey Assessment Survey.

Here is another option for consideration: We are reminded of the changing seasons as we enter into the Fall season. Want to explore on another intentional means to lead your congregation through a process of transformation, click [here](#) to learn more about this two-year process that uses four different seasons to discover how to open doors to the community. I welcome the opportunity to talk and to partner with you in revitalization/transformation efforts!

Gene Menzel – Contractor (Consultant) to the Southern District
Contact Info: Phone: 504-495-7436 or by e-mail at gwmenz@aol.com

Recruitment & Scholarship Grant-In-Aid for 2013-2014

The Recruitment and Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that our district has awarded \$57,399 to help fund the education of 17 future pastors, 6 future teachers, 2 future DCEs, and 2 future deaconesses for the 2013-14 school year. Our committee would like to thank all who contributed gifts for the purpose of raising up workers for the Church! We encourage you to keep these students in your prayers as they are engaged in their rigorous studies this school year.

Our committee has some exciting new changes ahead that we look forward to sharing with you as more details are worked out, all of which will have to do with how our district can be better stewards of the gifts we receive to support our future church workers. Simply put, we want your generous gifts to go farther and wider than ever before. These changes will also simplify the management side of things as our district office is in the midst of transition. If your congregation does not currently offer support for future workers of the harvest, we invite you to prayerfully consider doing so as you plan your giving for the coming year.

Rev. Jonathan Kern, Chair
Recruitment and Scholarship Committee

AVAILABLE MERCHANDISE



Kristie Scheler, Director of Community Life for Hope Lutheran, Santa Rosa Beach, FL, wrote that the following are available:

- 22 1982 edition blue Lutheran hymnals
- old unused Portals of Prayers - maybe missionaries
- 60-70 green padded worship chairs with pockets.

Kristie will be at the Southern District Mission Committee for the Missions Committee Meeting on November 4th. She can bring the hymnals at that time. She hopes not have to throw any of this merchandise away. Contact her at 850-520-0900 or srbflipflop@gmail.com.



CONGREGATIONS IN THE CALLING PROCESS FOR PASTOR

ALABAMA	Our Redeemer – Florence University – Tuscaloosa
FLORIDA	Grace - Pensacola
LOUISIANA	Zion – Clinton, LA Holy Trinity – Covington Redeemer – DeRidder with Trinity – Leesville (Dual Parish)
MISSISSIPPI	Our Redeemer – Clinton Our Savior – Columbus St. John – Hattiesburg

CALLS – ORDAINED – ACCEPTED

- **Stephen Linck**, Grace – Pensacola, FL, to Southern District Church Extension Fund Board as Director

PAX (sleeping peacefully in Christ), Kurt

Being **ALL IN** as a leader means:

1. **You don't look at the clock**, and you're not punching a time card. Your role is not defined by 9 – 5.
2. **You get it done** no matter how long it takes. You are “managerless,” meaning no one else has to worry about whether you are getting it done.
3. **You realize you are part of something bigger** than yourself, and humbly accomplish the goals because of a larger motivation than just you.
4. **Giving just the “minimum” amount** of effort required to get by without “getting in trouble” **doesn't even cross your mind**.
5. **Your hard work and excellence is done with pure motives**. You are not worried about climbing the ladder or impressing anyone.
6. **We is much more important than me**. If I win, the team wins. If the team wins, I win.
7. **You are willing and motivated to improve daily**. Getting better at what you do is not a choice, it's a requirement.
8. **You maintain a high standard of excellence** because the team/organization/brand demands it. You don't want to let anyone else down on the team.
9. **The vision compels you to greatness**. Not the opposite- “your greatness compelling the vision.” Many leaders get this backwards.
10. **Your intentions and goals are clear**. I know what I'm getting, and I'm never concerned about any ulterior motives.
11. **You are trustworthy**. 100%. Always with no exceptions. I know I can count on you.
12. Constant pursuit of the **extraordinary, not ordinary**. Constant pursuit of unusual, not usual. Constant pursuit of being the best, not average.