Connecting Point
Melbourne

July *2025*

See QR Codes
Inside to Sign Up for
New Text Updates

New System for Emergency Text Messages

We have used "***Remind***" many years for emergency texts. ***"Remind"*** is no longer available to us so we are switching to a new provider.

An emergency text is primarily used when we have to cancel due to weather and want to let everyone know. But it may be due to a fire or loss of electricity where we meet (both have happened).

Having an emergency system is important. Please sign up. If you join, be assured:

- We will only send you emergency texts.
- The system will allow you to respond but only the Melbourne Gathering will see the response. You will never be bothered by other people's replies.

Emergency Texts are notifications about emergencies.

*If you want to receive these, text "**Emergency**" to **321-220-3215**.* Put this number in your contacts. This helps with deliveries and for you to know who the text is from. **Save this number** as something like *Melbourne Gathering Text*.

We also have two other types of text messages:

1)Informational Texts are information we are trying to get out. It may be something we are planning or something in the community. For example, one Friday Kiwanis lost power and we were asked to help let people know the dance was canceled.
*If you want to receive these, text "**Info**" to **321-220-3215**.*

2) Fun or Encouraging Texts are fun or encouraging messages.
*If you want to receive these, text "**Fun**" to **321-220-3215.***

Remember in Prayer

- Chrissy B, whose dad just passed away
- Dwayne
- Fiona's mom
- April, for the loss of her grandmother & uncle
- Lynn's son to find a new job
- Janet's recovery from a broken foot.
- Aaron's Father
- Healing from surgery for Eric's dad, Bill

Dear Heavenly Father,

I pray that just as I am committed to ministering, encouraging, and praying for people, I will also be committed and persistent with my personal time with You. I will read my Bible or listen to my audio Bible and spend time in your holy presence.

Give me the grace to always fight for my personal time with You where I can have solitude with you alone, Father.

-Amen

Connecting Point is a newsletter
for and by the
mentally challenged
community
P. O. Box 685
Cocoa FL 32923
(321) 632-0130
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President
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NEW-Sign Up for Melbourne Gathering Text Notifications

A new provider is being used to send out 3 different types of texts to you. "***Remind***" is no longer active for our 1) Emergency, 2) Informational or Prayer, or 3) Fun or Encouraging Texts.

Please sign up now for these text messages.

Either scan the QR Code, or follow the texting instructions to sign up for these. You do not have to sign up for all three, and you may choose who receives the various messages.

1. **Emergency Texts:** which are emergency notifications. This is primarily used when we have to cancel due to weather.
   *If you want to receive these, either scan the QR Code on the left OR text "**Emergency**" to **321-220-3215**.*

2. **Informational or Prayer Texts:** which gives information we are trying to get out. It may be something we are planning or something in the community-Kiwanis once lost power and asked us to help let people know a dance was canceled.
   *If you want to receive these, either scan the QR code on the left or text "**Info**" to **321-220-3215**.*

3. **Fun or Encouraging Texts:** which are fun or encouraging.
   *If you want to receive these, scan the QR code on the left or text "**Fun**" to **321-220-3215.***

321-220-3215 Melbourne Gathering Text

Save this phone number in your phone contacts. This helps with deliveries and for you to know who the text is from. You could save this contact as something like *Melbourne Gathering Text*.

Why Am I Here?

by
Mark Fletcher

Part 2

(Last week, Marcus moved into a group home. Five other people live in the home. Marcus does not want to live there.)

Marcus went to his room after dinner. He was hungry but he did not eat to protest.

Abigail knocked gently on his door. Before he could answer, she said softly, "Can I come in?" Abby is a short, slender woman, the same age as Marcus. Her brown eyes and brown hair match perfectly. Her face is round, typical to a person whose disability is Downs Syndrome. Everyone, especially Marcus, says Abby is pretty.

Even though Marcus did not want to see anyone, he liked Abigail a lot. "Come in," he said in his gruffest voice.

Abigail hesitated. Then she opened the door. She had an apple in her hand. She put it on the table beside his television. "We aren't supposed to eat in our room; but apples are all right." Abigail said. She turned and left the room.

Marcus smiled. *That's Abby,* he thought. *She takes care of everyone; but Abby never wants to break any rules.*

Understanding her kindness, Marcus took the apple and ate it. Tomorrow was Saturday. Marcus could not help but wonder what happens in a group home on Saturday. *Probably nothing,* he thought.

Tonight, everyone, except Marcus, had chosen to go to a social given by First Bible Church. But Marcus stayed home in protest. He hated this home and everything about it.

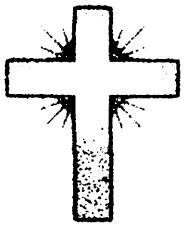
On Saturday morning, the smell of bacon, grits and eggs, weakened Marcus. He ate breakfast. But Marcus would not talk with anyone. He hated everyone here, except Abby.

Everyone chattered about the party last night. Bob Wilson, the Saturday staff, interruped to tell the day's events. "This morning we work in our rooms. Dust your furniture. Clean the floor.

"After that," Bob said with a grin, "we will go into the attic to explore." Everyone clapped and broke out into a loud cheer. Marcus looked around wondering. *What could be so exciting about going into an attic?*

July 2025

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 **Vero** Chapel Call Rebekah 772-770-1011 Extension 2	4 • **No Island Choir** • **Independence Day**	5 • 2:30pm **Vero Choir** • 3:30pm **Vero Gathering** 1105 58th Avenue
6 • 8:15am-**Melbourne Choir** at 2700 Sarno Road • 9:30am-**Melbourne Gathering** at 2700 Sarno • 10:00am-***Island Gathering*** at 65 Needle Blvd	7 **Mon. July 7 6:00pm** Board Mtg. St. John Evangelist Viera	8	9	10 **Island** Chapel Call Lynn 321-632-0130 Extension 3	11 • **3-5:00pm Island Choir** at 750 Brevard Ave	12 • 2:30pm **Vero Choir** • 3:30pm **Vero Gathering** 1105 58th Avenue
13 • 8:15am-**Melbourne Choir** at 2700 Sarno Road • 9:30am-**Melbourne Gathering** at 2700 Sarno • 10:00am-***Island Gathering*** at 65 Needle Blvd		**5:30pm** Every Tuesday **Promise Bible Study** All are Welcome	16	17	18 • **3-5:00pm Island Choir** at 750 Brevard Ave	19 • 2:30pm **Vero Choir** • 3:30pm **Vero Gathering** 1105 58th Avenue
20 • 8:15am-**Melbourne Choir** at 2700 Sarno Road • 9:30am-**Melbourne Gathering** at 2700 Sarno • 10:00am-***Island Gathering*** at 65 Needle Blvd	21	22 Titusville Bowling Tuesdays Call 321-264-5105	23	24 **9:00am** Newsletter Ministry at 65 Needle Blv.	25 • **No Island Choir**	26 • **No Vero Choir** • 3:30pm **Vero Gathering** 1105 58th Avenue
27 • **No Melbourne Choir** • 9:30am-**Melbourne Gathering** at 2700 Sarno • 10:00am-***Island Gathering*** at 65 Needle Blvd	28	29 For calendar updates, visit: BrevardGathering.com OR VeroBeachGathering.com	30	31 **Melbourne** Chapel Call Jennifer 321-632-0130 Extension 1	Vero Bowling Fridays call 772-321-6025	Merritt Island Bowling Saturdays call 321-213-1884 for dates



Let's Look at Luke *July 2025*

This is a study from the gospel of Luke in the Bible's New Testament. Let us study Luke 4:5 to Luke 4:8

5)Then the devil took Jesus and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in an instant. 6) The devil said to Jesus, "I will give you all these kingdoms and all their power and glory. It has all been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I wish. 7) If you worship me, then it will all be yours." 8) Jesus answered, "It is written in the Scriptures: 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'"

-Luke 4:5-8

First, read the verses. As you read, look for the answers to the questions. Circle the best answer.

<u>Vs 5</u> What was the devil was showing Jesus?

(a) restaurants

(b) museums

(c) Worldly kingdoms

<u>Vs 5</u> Satan (the devil) is trying to tempt Jesus.

(a) True

(b) False

<u>Vs 6</u> Satan is a liar and deceiver. Does Jesus listen to the lies?

(a) Yes

(b) No

(c) Maybe

<u>Vs 6</u> When satan tempts us or lies to us, should we listen?

(a) no

(b)Absolutely not

(c)Never

(d)All of the above

<u>Vs 8</u> What should we do when we are tempted by satan?

(a)Pray

(b)Read the Bible

(c) Ask a friend to pray for me

(d) All of the above

<u>BONUS</u> Pray to God when you are tempted to do bad things.

2023 Florida Statutes 393.13 THE BILL OF RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

(3) (h) Persons with developmental disabilities shall have a right to consent to or to refuse treatment, subject to the powers of a guardian advocate appointed pursuant to s 393.12 or a guardian appointed pursuant to chapter 744. ***To Consent*** means to willingly give permission without being pressured or coerced. ***To Refuse*** means to reject or deny permission. ***Treatment*** can include, but is not limited to, therapy or medical care or a procedure that is done to cure or address an illness, injury or condition.

(i) No otherwise qualified person shall, by reason of having a developmental disability, be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under, any program or activity which receives public funds, and all prohibitions set forth under any other statute shall be actionable under this statute. ***Excluded from Participation*** means prevented from taking part in an activity. ***Denied the Benefits of*** means that the person who is excluded from participation is prevented from taking part or enjoying the positive aspects or benefits of a program or activity. ***Discrimination*** means the unjust or unfair treatment of a person or group of people, especially in a worse way from the way that other people are treated, including because of their characteristics or their association with a group. ***Public Funds*** include monies allocated to a particular program or activity. ***Prohibitions*** means the act of officially not allowing, banning or forbidding something. ***Actionable*** refers to a situation or circumstance that gives enough legal basis or evidence to support filing and pursuing a lawsuit.

Part 5 in a series

Melbourne Gathering
20 Sutton St
Rockledge, FL 32955

Free Matter
for the Blind
and Physically
Handicapped

Return service requested

Mailed from zip code 32926

Who Will Receive the Emergency Text?

Whoever receives the emergency text is a family or agency choice. They might want the parent or group home manager to receive the emergency text but have their family member or client receive the fun text. From the phone you want to receive the text:

1) Open text or messaging app

2) Dial 321-220-3215

3) Where you put text to send a message, enter one of the following:

A) Emergency B) Info C) Fun

4) If you want Emergency text and/or Info text and/or Fun text you will need to repeat the process.

Questions? Call Richard Stimson at 321-632-0130 Ext. 5.

Vero Beach

Visit Us Online:
VeroBeachGathering.com
BrevardGathering.com
Or by scanning the QR Code

Melbourne & Island