

VISION

Bethel Baptist Church

April 2011

Inside this issue:

Pastor Bruce's Adult Ministries	3
Bethel Worship Notes	5
Young Adults Ministry	6
Youth Ministry	7
Children's Ministry	8
Senior Adult Ministry	10
Missions Page	15

Special points of interest:

- *The Schedule for Holy Week*
- *Tips on Communication*
- *Bethel Softball Team Organizing*
- *Lil' Angels Closet Gearing Up*
- *Philippines Missions Trip*

Pastor Dave's Corner

We recently finished re-decorating our mud room. (Well almost finished.) We repainted the walls and put up some new cabinets. The finishing touch for the walls consisted of hanging a number of family photos. I can take no credit for this. It was the idea of my artistic daughter, Elizabeth. She selected ten pictures, had them enlarged and arranged them for the proper effect. It turned out great. Now as I make my way through the revitalized mud room to the garage I am reminded of positive memories of our family. When I look at those pictures many stories come to my mind. I am caused to take the time to reflect upon those stories and rejoice in their outcome.

This month we set our sights on the most significant event of the year, Easter. It is a time to reflect and rejoice. All four of the Gospels give us a picture gallery of the events leading up to and including Easter. I want to encourage you to take some time this month to walk through those galleries and reflect upon what they tell us. As you

do, you will be led to rejoice in the reality of Easter. So let me get you started.

As we walk through the picture gallery the first scene we come to is Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. It was a major departure from Jesus' normal way of doing things. Throughout his public ministry he always downplayed the crowds and popular acclaim. On that day Jesus intentionally made himself the center of attention. He had come to claim his rightful place as the King of Kings.

Moving past the Triumphal entry we see a picture of Jesus in the Temple. This too is a drastically different picture than what we had come to expect. Jesus was deeply disturbed by what he saw in the Temple. God's house had been turned into a common marketplace. Instead of being a place of prayer it had become "a den of thieves." Jesus took matters into his own hands by clearing the Temple and then teaching the people the true meaning of worship.



Reflect, Rejoice

The next picture we come to is a more private affair. Jesus is gathered in an upper room to celebrate the Passover with his disciples. There is some mystery surrounding this picture. Jesus himself had made all of the arrangements and had kept the details secret. It is obvious that this was to be a very special occasion. Jesus used this time to instruct his disciples with both words and actions. There are confused and bewildered looks on the faces of the disciples.

That picture quickly gives way to a more chaotic scene. Jesus and the disciples are in the garden. Jesus has been praying while the disciples have been sleeping. Suddenly

(Continued on page 20)

Holy Week Events

What is the Big Deal About Easter?



Palm Sunday - April 17

Matthew 21:1-11 - The Triumphal Entry

Who is This?

Maundy Thursday - April 21

6:00 p.m. Meal & Communion

Matthew 26:17-30 - The Lord's Supper

Why the Drama?



*"Come find out
'What is the Big
Deal About Easter?'
and share it with a
friend."*



Good Friday - April 22

7:00 p.m. Service

Mark 8:31 - Jesus Predicts His Death

Why the Cross?

Easter Sunday - April 24

8:30, 9:45, 11:00 a.m. Services

Matthew 28:1-15 - The Resurrection

Who Will You Believe?



Easter Breakfast - 9:00-11:00 a.m. The Youth will host Easter Morning Breakfast. A free-will offering will be taken to help cover the cost of the youth's summer missions trip.

NOTE: There will be no children or adult Sunday School classes on Easter.

Adult Ministries by Pastor Bruce

hey ... Hey! ... **HEY!**

I think we need to talk ... hear one another ...
really ca...ca, uh, uh, ... **communicate** ...

In pre-marital counseling as I seek to help couples prepare for a lifetime together it is always a major concern. When couples and families struggle or triumph it is a constant factor. It is the most crucial matter we deal with in our life together and mission as a church family. The other day I heard an expert who deals with nuclear accidents who worked at Chernobyl and is now helping in Japan. He said in both cases the major challenge was ...

Communication

So, check this out:

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was with God in the beginning.

3 Through him all things were made;
without him nothing was made
that has been made.

John 1:1-3 NIV

And this:

1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors
through the prophets at many times and in various ways,
2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son,
whom he appointed heir of all things,
and through whom also he made the universe.

Heb. 1:1,2 NIV

Consider ...

God communicating with us in a deeply personal way
The creative power of the Word of God
But, oh ... destruction, death and the sting of sin are screaming loudly
all around the world and in our ears and hearts ...

But, **HEY, HEY** ...

... God so loved the world
that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him
shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 NIV

This season we will be **communicating some**

really Good NEWS

**Please invite someone and pray for good communication
and that people will say YES to Jesus
and Live abundantly and forever!**

Adult Ministries-Continued

"My Story"

One of the ways we want to communicate the Good News of the gospel and share the goodness of God's transforming love is by sharing our stories. Please consider writing out your story of how God's love has transformed/is transforming your life and submit it to Pastor Bruce or the church office. We want to video some of our stories and show some short versions in our services as a means of encouraging people in the Lord. The initial step in this story-telling is getting it down in writing. If you have questions about this, please check with Pastor Bruce.



Let's Get Together



We want to do more than sit in our seats on Sunday mornings. We want to connect and get to know and enjoy each other.

We would like to organize some special events for each worship service (8:30, 9:45 and 11:00) so we can engage in some fun times together that will help us get better acquainted.

Are you willing to be a team leader or team member for the service you attend? If so, let us know! Call or e/m the church office. Thanks

Play Ball!

A Bethel softball team is forming. Games will begin in late April and be played on Thursday nights. Contact Pete Peterson by Sunday, April 17, to sign up: phone: 340-8052 or e-mail: appraise@hickorytech.net



Bethel Worship Notes

With Easter Sunday on the horizon I wanted to highlight a song we have been singing (see the song lyrics below) during our Sunday Worship gatherings over the past several months. The song title is “Cannons” and was written by Phil Wickham. The lyrics in this song remind me of a statement that Jesus made in the last week of his life as he rode into Jerusalem on the colt.

Here is the account from Luke 19:36-40 ³⁶ *As he rode along, the crowds spread out their garments on the road ahead of him.* ³⁷ *When he reached the place where the road started down the Mount of Olives, all of his followers began to shout and sing as they walked along; praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen.* ³⁸ *“Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the LORD! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!”* *But some of the Pharisees among the crowd said, “Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!”* ⁴⁰ *He replied, “If they kept quiet, **the stones along the road would burst into cheers!**”*

I was struck by Jesus’ response to the Pharisees. They (the Pharisees) had missed who Jesus was, yet His creation, the rocks knew who Jesus was and would have cried out in praise of Jesus had his followers been silenced. You may ask, how can rocks cry out and Praise God? I am sure Jesus spoke the truth to the Pharisees and had his followers been silent, God would have had a way for the rocks to praise Jesus as he entered Jerusalem. Many times as I have observed and enjoyed God’s creation, I have seen His creation Worship Him, and in effect lead me into Worship of Him. God’s creation can be our Worship Leader if we take the time and allow it to be. The bigness, greatness, majesty and wonder of God’s creation worshipping him is expressed through Phil Wickham’s song. Take a look at the lyrics and just picture the amazing ways that God’s creation expresses its Worship of Him. I hope all of us can do the same this Easter!

Cannons by Phil Wickham:

Verse 1 *It’s falling from the clouds, a strange and lovely sound I hear it in the thunder and the rain. It’s ringing in the skies Like cannons in the night, the music of the universe plays.*

Chorus: *You are holy, great and mighty, the moon and the stars declare who You are. I’m so unworthy, but still You love me, forever my heart will sing of how great You are.*

Verse 2 *Beautiful and free, song of Galaxies, it’s reaching far beyond the milky way. Lets join in with the sound, c’mon let’s sing it loud, as the music of the universe plays. (chorus than to ending)*

Ending: *All glory, honor, power is Yours amen (x3)*

May the way we “worship,” respond and **lead others to respond to the grace, greatness and glory of God.** The Lord’s richest blessings to you as we worship Him together and ready our hearts for the celebration of Christ’s Resurrection this Easter season!

A FINAL NOTE:

We would love to have you join our Easter Choir. We will be singing at the 8:30am and 9:45am Services on Easter Sunday. All those desiring to sing in our Easter Choir, please mark the following dates on your calendar and let me know of your desire to join us:

Blessings, Pastor Glenn

email: pastorglenn@bethelmankato.com

Choir Rehearsals: (Please plan on attending at least 2 or 3 of these 5 rehearsal times)

April 7th - 5:30pm – 6:30pm – (Thursday)

April 14th - 5:30pm – 6:30pm – (Thursday)

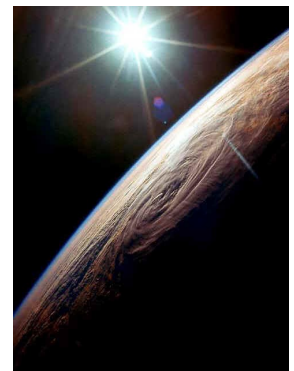
April 20th – 5:30pm - 6:30pm - (Wednesday)

April 23rd - 9:30am -11:00am – (Saturday)

April 24th - (Easter Sunday) - 7:45am - 8:15am (To sing at the 8:30am and 9:45am services)



“God’s creation can be our Worship Leader if we take the time and allow it to be.”





People spend nearly two weeks of their lives sitting at traffic lights!



Young Adults Ministry by Christian Kohs

April Events

Young Couples Potluck!

Come and Join us on April 2nd @ 12:00 p.m. as we begin to grow relationships with each other! It is sometimes hard to meet and hard to find the people that are in our **similar age and life situations** and this is something we are going to begin to do on a regular basis.

Film and Theology	4/19
Young Adults Lunch	5/1

us that he continues in prayer for us. Hebrews 7:25 says, "He always lives to make intercession for them." He sets the example for us to follow.

Through prayer, disciples become intimate with the Lord. When reading the book of Acts,

Personal Prayer

Prayer is one of the foundational disciplines of a follower of Christ. In John 15:4, Jesus tells His disciples, "Abide in me, and I in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me." Jesus was a profound man of prayer and that is why the disciples asked Him how to pray. They walked and talked with Him, but perhaps more importantly was that they saw Him as a true man of prayer.

Jesus is the primary example for prayer. The Gospels tell us that Jesus prayed at every major event in His life: His baptism (Luke 3:21); the choice of apostles (6:12-12); his transfiguration (9:29); before the cross at Gethsemane (22:39-40); and on the cross (23:46). The Bible tells

we can see that the life of the early church revolved around fellowship. Acts 2:42 says, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." Fellowship is an intimate union in which Christians share. This is not just friendship, but also the deep bond that only Christians can know as the family of God. Disciples of Christ need one another to live for God in the world. God has given believers the blessing of fellowship to provide a place for spiritual growth, intimacy, accountability, and protection. The church is a place where fellowship happens. It is not a building; it is the family of God and the body of Christ. The church is a spiritual family that supports and encourages believers.

Remember Jesus still sits at the right hand of God making prayers on our behalf. Jesus' prayers for us are not just prayers, but the life He lived and everything He said and did was for us! The meaning of the cross is Christ's mediation for all who would be saved.

"Jesus was a profound man of prayer and that is why the disciples asked Him how to pray."



Youth Ministries

30-Hour Famine...

Senior Highers! Start raising money now to support starving children through World Vision. Stop eating after lunch on Friday, April 8th and eat again after dinnertime on Saturday, April 9th. Come prepared with a 1-piece swimsuit, pajamas and work clothes to get dirty in.



Service Project...

Last month Senior High decorated terra cotta pots with senior citizens at Hillcrest. Junior High built a ramp for a disabled senior citizen. This month we will be another opportunity to share our love for Christ by getting out in the community and serving them.

**YOUTH
SERVICE
PROJECT**



April Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
4/2	Ping Pong Tournament	9 am-12 pm
4/6	Senior High-Xplode! Service Project Junior High-iMPLODE!	6-8 pm
4/8-9	30-Hour Famine	8 pm-8 pm
4/13	Senior High-iMPLODE! Junior High-Xplode! Service Project	6-8 pm
4/20	Youth Worship Nite	6-8 pm
4/24	Easter Breakfast	9-11 am
4/27	Senior & Junior High-Xplode! Diaper Wars	6-8 pm

“Come for Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 24th at 8:00 a.m. to help get us cookin’!”



Children's Ministries

Nursery Schedule

Londa Krueger is our Nursery Coordinator. If you would like to help out in the nursery just give her a call at (507) 385-1374.



<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Infants</u>	<u>Preschool</u>
Apr. 3	8:30	Rick & Londa Krueger	Dani Burroughs & Tyla Krueger
	9:45	Steve & Amber Rick	Sunday School
	11:00	Jake & Angie Johnson	Ben & Amber Honsey & Rachael Anderson
Apr. 10	8:30	Bryce & Jackie Anderson	Herb & Michelle Scott
	9:45	Joey & Shannon Ruzic	Sunday School
	11:00	Suanne & Elizabeth Banfield	LeAnn Wilcox & Ashley Anderson
Apr. 17	8:30	Jon & Breanna Nickel	Sandra Tambi & Abby Cherney
	9:45	Carol Edwards & Jenny Schommer	Sunday School
	11:00	Chad & Brooke Riley	Peters Family
Apr. 24	8:30	Mike & Kari Hennegar	Michael & Nghi Anderson & Lauren Daly
	9:45	Candace Kolander & Monica West	Sunday School
	11:00	Jackie Nagel & Elizabeth Banfield	Sarah Ruggless & Jan Johnson

“Get ready for
Awana Awards
Night on April
20th.”



For kids ages 4 to
6th grade.

Meets every Wednesday
6:00-7:45 p.m.

April 2011 Schedule

- 4/6 Regular Club Night/T&T Awana Store
- 4/13 Regular Club Night/Practice
- 4/20 Awards Night



Children's Ministry-Continued

Sunday School Offering

Our offerings from January until May will go to Kid's Against Hunger. Last year we had 50 people help us fill over 9000 bags of food. We need to collect the money for the bags we pack. Let's continue to bring our offerings and tell your friends and family they can give also.

ATTENTION Campers!



Check out the Camp display in *The Flow* and sign up for a great time at Trout Lake !

To Register:

1. Choose the camp you want to go to. (Grade School, Teen, or Family Camp.)
2. Fill out registration for that camp. Payment due at time of registration.
3. If you would like to find out about scholarships from the camp fund, contact Donna Nelson.
4. You may send your registration directly to camp if you are not using a scholarship. Send payment with registration.

Bethel Camp Fund

Would you like to help a child go to a life-changing week at Trout Lake Camps?

Last year we sent 12 campers to Trout Lake Camps. It was our privilege to pay for half of their registration fee from the camp fund. This is about \$150 per camper depending on the camp they attend.

We invite you to donate to our camp fund so we can offer scholarships once again to our campers from Bethel.

Our children need to register soon because some weeks fill up very quickly.

If you want to help someone go to camp this summer, please make a check out to Bethel and designate your gift to the camp fund or see Donna Nelson for more information.

1 Corinthians 16:2



On the first day of every week...set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income ...



"It is time to register for summer camp. Check out the Camp display in The Flow."



Senior Adult Ministry



Men's Coffee & Sermon Talk - 9:00 a.m. Monday's
Come and discuss Sunday's sermon over coffee.

Senior Adult Lunch - 12:00 noon Wednesday, April 13

Join us for a delicious homemade meal while we fellowship.
(Please notate date change.)



Stitch 'N Time - 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 26

Bring your stitchery, puzzles, other quiet activities and have a devotion and snack as we fellowship.

Senior Adult Game Day - 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 23

Play your favorite board games while we fellowship and enjoy some snacks.



"Stitch 'N Time begins a new season on Tuesday, April 26 at 1:30 p.m."



2nd Half for Him - April through May and October

Service Opportunities for Prime Timers and Route 66. Make Trout Lake Camps better. We clean, paint, build, sew, repair, eat, laugh, pray, and enjoy! Cost is NO CHARGE but you must register. See the church office for registration form.



Senior Expo



Senior Expo

The Verizon Wireless Center is proud to host the 7th annual Senior Expo! The Senior Expo aims to promote a healthier and safer lifestyle for those 55-plus. This year's Senior Expo will be held on **Tuesday, May 17, 2011, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** at the Verizon Wireless

Center. We are proud to announce DON SHELBY as our keynote speaker from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The event highlights include: informational seminars on health topics, no-cost medical screenings, an exhibit hall featuring 100+ booths with services and products

for the active older adults/seniors, entertainment, prize drawings, refreshments and low-cost lunches.

For any questions contact Tricia Stenberg at 507-387-8453 or tstenberg@verizonwirelesscenter.mn.com

Praise & Prayers



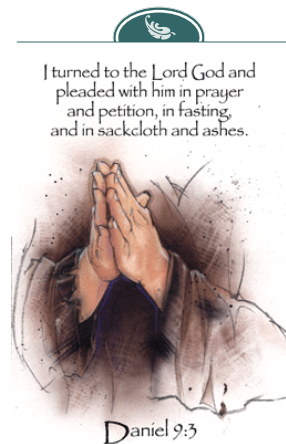
There is a prayer group that meets on Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. to pray for our attendees, their families & friends, and those in our community. If you would like to be part of this group, contact Suanne Banfield at (507) 388-4432 or banfield@hickorytech.net or come and meet us at church on Wednesday.

- ◆ Praise for the birth of **Aaron Johnson** born on March 16th to **Angie & Bill**. Proud grandparents are **David & Carolyn Baker**.
- ◆ Praise for **Jeff & Barb Chapman** (missionaries in Japan) who are safe after the earthquake.
- ◆ Pray for **everyone affected** by the earthquake & tsunami disaster in Japan.
- ◆ Pray for **Janet Mikesen** in the loss of her great-grandmother.
- ◆ Pray for the **two new churches** in the MIBC.
- ◆ Pray for **Rich & Susan McLean-Neufeld** in the loss of her grandmother.
- ◆ Pray for **Jackie Edwards** in the loss of her father, Vern Hood.
- ◆ Pray for **Jackie's mother & sister** who are having health issues.
- ◆ Pray for a **friend of Mike & Dawn White** who lost his dad in a car accident.
- ◆ Pray for our **Missionaries of the Month: Japan Missionaries & Philippines Mission Trip**.
- ◆ Pray **God's leading and blessing** in our days of growth & change
- ◆ Pray that **Bethel** will be a church that is culturally relevant and a transforming power in our community
- ◆ Pray that we will see **people coming to faith in Jesus** at Bethel on a regular basis
- ◆ Pray that **we all** reach out to others & plant seeds of hope in Jesus
- ◆ Pray that **we as a congregation** will be able to warmly welcome & incorporate all of the new people God brings our way.
- ◆ Pray for our **sister churches in Votlivka & Tenovka, Ukraine & Cadunan, Philippines**
- ◆ Pray for the **peace of Jerusalem**, Psalm 122:6
- ◆ Pray for a **speedy resolution** to the crisis in Iraq



Family & Friends Serving Overseas:

- ◆ **Nick Berry** - nephew of Shawn & Gwen Berry
- ◆ Pray for **our troops** around the world



Women's Ministry

Lil' Angels Closet



Lil' Angels Closet is a consignment sale of clothing (infant to children size 14 and maternity), toys, nursery supplies and equipment. Choose from hundreds of items screened for good care and high quality.

On Saturday, designated items are reduced 50%.

Payment can be made by cash or check.

If you are interested in being a seller please contact the office to receive a seller's packet.



Dates are May 6-7, 2011.

Women's Conferences

Sisters in Grace

You are Enough

Thursday, April 7, 2011

6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Hosted by Messiah Lutheran Church

1706 Lee Blvd., North Mankato

Free Admission-Bring a Girlfriend

Light refreshments will be provided

Guest speakers:

Claudia Fletcher
&
Carrie Lamb

For childcare, call 507-382-9118 with number of children & ages.

Simplify Your Life

Saturday April 9, 2011

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Bethel University,
St. Paul

\$39 includes main session speakers, workshops and lunch.

Guest speakers:

Kandy Stevens
&

Pastor Laurel Bunker

Worship Leader:

Dave Herring

For more information visit:
www.bestlifeministries.com



"Lil' Angels Closet is just about upon us. Call now if you would like to be a seller!"



Women's Ministries-Continued

Women's Prayer Retreats

Minnesota Iowa Baptist Conference is sponsoring 2 Women's Prayer Retreats at the Shalom House at Trout Lake Camps. The purpose is to:

- ◆ Quiet ourselves before God
- ◆ Seek God's face in prayer, privately and together as a group
- ◆ Listen to God's voice through His Word and some guided reflection
- ◆ Leave refreshed, healed and renewed, having met with God

The dates are April 29-May 1 or November 4-6. Cost is \$115. The retreat will begin with a prayer time followed by light refreshments at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, and end at noon on Sunday. The week before the retreat you will receive a letter with more details. Contact the Church office for a registration form. Questions contact MIBC at 651-633-0560 or mjohnson@mbcworld.org.



March of Dimes march for babies

When you participate in March for Babies, you give hope to more than half a million babies born too soon each year. The money you raise will fund important research and programs that help babies begin healthy lives!

Join us on **April 30th** at **Wheeler Park** for the annual Greater Mankato March for Babies! Get your family, friends and co-workers together and pre-register your team at www.marchforbabies.org

Feel free to contact the Mankato March of Dimes team at 507-388-6342 with any questions or concerns.

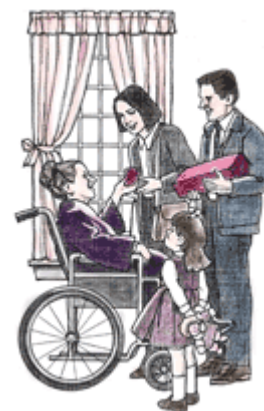




“Please think about ‘adopting’ a resident of a nursing home through GSM.”

Adopt A Senior

Would you be interested in “adopting” a resident of a nursing home? *Adopt a Senior* is a new program of Gentle Shepherd Ministries. Adoption involves building a friendship with a resident as you seek to make a difference in their life. Contact Jerry David at 507-327-1480 or gsm@hickorytech.net if interested.



Summit Rewind

Summit Rewind

Wednesday, April 13, we will listen to Bill Hybels' interview with Jack Welch, former CEO of GE. You may want to check out a great article in Fast Company magazine about Hybels and the Leadership Summit. You can read this at:

<http://www.fastcompany.com/magazine/151/what-would-jack-do.html>



Support Groups



"Bethel offers support groups for those who are in need."



Do you know someone who is hurting due to marital separation and/or divorce?

It is very likely that they would be greatly blessed by some sound Biblical

teaching and some caring support and encouragement from others who have also suffered loss. Please let them know. They can check our website and/or give Pastor Bruce a call if they want more information.

Our sessions will run

from **January 25 to April 19, 2011**. We will meet each Tuesday evening from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. To register contact the church office or go to our website www.bethelmankato.com.



Encourage one another and build up each other....

1 Thessalonians 5:11, NRSV



The National Alliance on Mental Illness-Mankato offers the Connection Support Group

every **Thursday** at 6:30-8:00 p.m. This is for anyone who lives with a mental illness.

There is also a support group for family members. It

meets the **2nd & 4th Thursdays** of the month at 6:30 p.m. Both groups meet here at Bethel.

Missions Page

JAPAN RELIEF:

We praise God that Jeff and Barb Chapman, our missionaries in Japan, are safe as are all Converge missionaries there. We will be designating our April benevolent offering (April 3 after communion) for Japan relief. Our funds will be distributed through our Converge Worldwide (BGC) missionaries.



PHILIPPINES TRIP A SUCCESS!

In January, two members of our Bethel family, Cita Maignes and Angie Hoffman, along with community members Jack and Mike McGowan, traveled to Cadunan (Cita's hometown) on Mindanao island in the south of the Philippines. They went to encourage our newest sister church, Bethel Fellowship of Cadunan.

From Cita

I am proud of the three American mission team members for opening their hearts and doing things beyond their comfort zones. I know that this was a pretty scary experience for them but they all excelled and did beyond our mission goals.

Our agenda:

1. To establish a safe water supply for the Village (the McGowans)
2. To assist in ministry for Bethel Fellowship church
 - children's ministry (a weekend Bible camp) - Angie and Cita
 - re-establishing relationships with the village elders - Cita
3. To teach basic food preservation to the village - Cita


I am grateful to God and the Bethel Church members for making this mission possible. The village is opened for follow-up on their faith in Jesus Christ. Pastor Aristeo Limbaro is now going to be really busy doing the follow-up. Unfortunately, physically, he is very ill. He has diabetes, but he keeps on doing the work of the Lord.

The children seemed to really enjoy the weekend camp. This was their first time doing such activities and they seemed to bond with Angie really well. The crafts and the songs helped them interact with each other. Next year, if God is still willing to allow us to do this again, we hope to concentrate more on learning the word of God.

I am also hoping to concentrate fully on evangelism, to bring more people to Christ and to establish solid church members at Bethel Fellowship of Cadunan.

I cannot thank you all enough for the overwhelming support for this mission. People in Cadunan need your prayers. To God be the glory!

(See next page)



"I am also hoping to concentrate fully on evangelism, to bring more people to Christ and to establish solid church members at Bethel Fellowship of Cadunan."



Missions Page-Continued

FROM ANGIE:



As I reflect on my time in the Philippines, so many memories come to mind! If you know me at all, you know I am rarely short on words so I will do my best to sum up something of this magnitude!

Well, my experience really began here in the states. The first thing I noticed was how supportive my church family here and in Arkansas were towards going on this mission. I had financial and prayer support as well as friends and family who would tell me they were proud of me for doing this. I always felt like people were thanking me when I should be the one thanking them. How lucky I was to be able to do this!

The next thing I noticed was some concern. Occasionally, someone would ask me, "Are you sure it is safe?" or "What about this or what about that?" This didn't slow me down much but my concern is for others who may consider making such a trip. Don't let the devil cause fear to creep in on a mission God chose you to do!

Let's get to the Philippines now. First off, I knew very little in comparison to what I knew when I came home. The flights were long (I don't care for flying much) and I remember thinking, "I don't know if this much flying is worth going anywhere." How silly I think that statement is now that I have been there and back! Once we arrived, I noticed how friendly the people were. They were very warm and inviting, and happy to have us there! I noticed in spite of the many differences between "our world and theirs," we were very much the same. Our basic needs were the same, but our means of acquiring them were different. This one statement determines the differences between how they spend their entire day versus how we spend ours. This made me view "our world" differently as well. I have never thought myself to be rich or even close in terms of money and things, but looking around "my world" upon my return really showed me how many things we all take for granted.

As for my spiritual experience, two major memories come to mind. First, I remember a day where I was standing on the beach with this tropical setting as the sun was going down and the earth just seemed to glow! I thought to myself, "Only God could do this! Only God could have paved the way for me to be here right now, doing what I am doing." I just broke down and cried, "Thank you Lord! Thank you so much!" It was all I really knew to say at the time. Nothing else seemed adequate.

And finally, I reflect on my time with the children at camp. I spoke very little of their language and they spoke very little of mine. I thought that I would teach them songs and Bible verses and on the third day, during church service, we would sing and recite. That started to become an unrealistic expectation once I discovered just how thick the language barrier was. As I began, I noticed how much enthusiasm the children had for singing! They wanted to learn these songs. It topped up there with crafts and playing games. We could sing the same song 5 times in a row and they wouldn't lose their excitement. By the end of the third day, during the church service, we sang three songs and recited Romans 10:9, "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."



This was my experience. I encourage you to have one of your own!

"I noticed in spite of the many differences between 'our world and theirs,' we were very much the same."

Giving Update

Thank you for your involvement in and giving to the ministry of Bethel this year. Following is a summary of weekly giving for this year-to-date for the General Fund and for XtremeSteps. You'll note we're a little short of our weekly budget need in General Fund giving - about \$120 per week - and ahead of last year's giving by \$256 per week. XtremeSteps giving is shorter compared to budget - about \$1,750 per week short - and \$902 dollars per week behind last year's giving.

Fund	General Fund	XtremeSteps
Weekly Budget Needed	\$8,173	\$3,770
Average Weekly Giving Year-to-date	\$8,053	\$2,021
Average Weekly Giving Last Year-to-date	\$7,777	\$2,923



"We are putting together a follow-up team to take our XtremeSteps campaign to the next stages."

Thanks again for your giving and involvement in ministry here at Bethel. As God leads you, would you consider increasing your giving to Bethel? God is working in our midst; your gifts are an investment in God's Kingdom growing work!

We are also putting together a follow-up team to take our XtremeSteps campaign to the next stages. If you'd like to be involved in planning for the future in this way, please get in touch with Rick Krueger, Torrey Carlblom or the church office.



Purchasing 17 Camelot Lane for Future Growth

Background & 9 Camelot Lane

Several years ago, our congregation made the decision to begin purchasing property surrounding the church property as it became available. Shortly after we indicated this desire to the neighbors, the property at 9 Camelot Lane (the middle of the 3 houses immediately north of the church) came available. Shortly after that, Property of the King came together to purchase and manage the property until such time as the church needs it for expansion.



17 Camelot Lane

The westernmost of the three houses north of the church – 17 Camelot Lane – has now come available. This is an unusual purchase and has taken quite some time to effect because the house is owned by HUD (United States Housing and Urban Development Department) and is part of the affordable housing program here in Mankato and Blue Earth County. We'd approached the department that manages these properties over the past few years about swapping for the property as they weren't willing to sell.

The City, as part of the Sibley Parkway development project, asked if we'd be willing to contribute dollars to an affordable housing component of the project in exchange for 17 Camelot. Through several months of discussion and project planning, the department determined that we'd need to bring \$140,000 to the project to make it all work based on HUD standards. Leadership Board discussed the situation and provided the City with a letter – as required by HUD procedures – indicating that we'd contribute \$140,000 to make the project happen. The package went in to HUD for consideration.


The City recently informed us that the project was approved by HUD. Property of the King has put together a plan to purchase and manage 17 Camelot until the church needs it. This plan, as was the case with 9 Camelot, has been developed to ensure the properties cashflow during the life of the project(s). But, we need your help.

The Need

In order to cashflow the 17 Camelot project, we need to inject a higher level of equity capital than for the purchase of 9 Camelot. In order to complete this purchase under the tight timelines involved, we need several more folks to step forward to purchase shares in Property of the King as soon as possible. Shares cost \$6,200 each; anyone can purchase multiple shares.

Could you be involved or do you know of someone who could be involved in preparing for Bethel's future in this way? If you'd like to know more, please contact Torrey Carlblom at (507) 327-1070 or Torrey.Carlblom@intelli-solve.com. He can answer questions you may have on the project and how it works over time.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to be involved in preparing for Bethel's future expansion needs.



*“We are growing
and need to expand
in the near future.
Read up on how we
purpose to do that.”*

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

*Transformed by the love of Jesus
Christ.*



1250 Monks Ave.
Mankato, MN 56001
(Across from All Seasons Arena)

Phone: 507-345-4011
E-mail: office@bethelmankato.com
Website: www.bethelmankato.com

WE'RE ON THE WEB
BETHELMANKATO.COM

Senior Pastor: Dr. David J. Banfield

Pastor of Adult Ministries: Dr. Bruce Nelson

Pastor of Student Ministries: Harrison Musser

Pastor of Worship Ministries: Rev. Glenn Winch

Pastoral Intern: Christian Kohs

Sunday Worship Services

Family 8:30 AM
Traditional 9:45 AM
Contemporary 11:00 AM

Sunday School 9:45 AM

Nursery is Available During All Services

BETHEL IS COMMITTED TO:

Connecting people to God and others

Equipping people to serve God and others

Engaging people in service for God and others

Pastor Dave's Corner-Continued

the stillness of the picture is shattered by tramping feet and angry voices. We see Jesus arrested and the disciples running for their lives.

The pictures continue to get darker at this point. We see Jesus being put on trial, mocked and ridiculed and eventually condemned. We want to scream NO! But we are powerless to change the picture. We see Jesus being paraded through the streets of Jerusalem, like a common criminal, on his way to his crucifixion.

We don't really

want to look at the next picture. There is nothing pretty about it. It is horror and death, pure and simple. There is no way to make this picture clean. Evil has the upper hand and is rejoicing, or so it seems. But wait, there is one more picture.

The last picture is larger and clearer than all of the rest. It is hung in a prominent place where everyone can see it. It is the picture of Easter. We see an empty tomb and a risen Jesus. We see fearful yet delighted women and confused but rejoicing disci-

ples. Above all we see victory; for just as Jesus said, the Son of Man must suffer many things and be killed, and be raised on the third day. It is at this point that reflection gives way to rejoicing.

The Apostle Paul summarizes the great significance of this picture gallery in 1 Corinthians 15:17-20. *And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.*

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

This month take the time to walk through the picture gallery of Easter. Reflect, rejoice and revel in the reality that Jesus Christ has been raised. He lives and so we can live as well.

