



# BETHEL GROVE BIBLE CHURCH

1763 Slaterville Rd, Ithaca, NY, 14850

## THE MESSENGER

January-February 2011

### THOUGHTS FROM DAVE

#### KOINONIA

I find January to be a good time to review one's commitment to the basics of Christian life. In our January worship services, our focus has been on the fellowship and partnership that God calls us to as a congregation. This shared life brings about deep change and perspective for the year ahead as we face life's opportunities and unknown challenges before us. I believe that the role fellowship/partnership plays in the life of God's people is essential for the clarity of ministry that the Lord will give to us in 2011.

Why fellowship? One doesn't read very far into the New Testament until confronted by the intense reality that this fellowship is restored in Jesus Christ. Broken relationships occur in an individual's life, in the community of Christ-followers and in the fallen and broken world. The power of the gospel, in redeeming people and restoring koinonia, is central to BG's mission.

In addition, looking at koinonia from a partnership perspective, the New Testament's use of koinonia describes three fundamental ideas. First, as Christians, there is 'something' we share in together (common faith). Second, there is 'some way' that we serve together (common service). Third, there is the 'somehow' of life together (common life). This commonality binds diverse people together for the right reasons.

The letter to the Philippians weaves all three themes together in a seamless tapestry of Christ-centered fellowship/partnership. Paul does not present them in a linear fashion; rather they appear in cyclical ways. Philippians emphasizes God's work in salvation, God's work in the world and his work in his people. The link is clear and it is firm, fellowship and partnerships bring glory to God and his goodness to his people. May 2011 display a deeper resolve to share our lives together so that many will see Christ is a new and vital way.

### ASSOCIATE PASTOR SEARCH

The search process is moving forward. As explained at the recent Quarterly Meeting, the pastoral search committee is forming to begin work on processing the large number of applicants for the position. The members of the search committee are: Soledad Exantus; Debbie Cramton; Erik Eshelman; Nathan Reimer; Larry Olsen; Janet Olsen; Pat Wright; Jeff Ives. Jim Adams is the chairman of the committee.

Please pray with the committee as they consider these applicants and move toward narrowing down the pool of potential candidates. Since mid December, we have almost 80 applicants. This list is being reduced to about 30 by Jim Adams and the elders for the search committee's consideration. As the process continues, the committee will keep the congregation posted of the progress and will encourage input as the candidate list narrows to the final few.

This pastoral search is very crucial for Bethel Grove's commitment to younger generations. Pray that the Lord's hand will guide each step and provide the wisdom needed for this decision.

### Learning to Think Biblically Through Study, Interaction, and Reflection

**This annual event is a mid-winter opportunity to gather with believers from across the Ithaca community to gain refreshment from fellowship and the study of God's Word.**

20th Annual Institute of Biblical Studies

### The Way It's Suppose to Be

A Breviary of Christian Virtue

Dr. Cornelius Plantinga Jr.

President of Calvin Theological Seminary

Register On-Line: <http://www.bg.org/ibs.html>

February 4 @ Cornell

February 5-6 @ BG

# Remembering Last Summer's Ugandan Partnership

By Dave Jones

The African sun made the rooms unbearably hot, yet there was an air of expectancy that one could almost feel among the secondary students. Two adjoining rooms were packed with classmates sitting on every available chair and desk. Other students stood against the stucco walls and in any open space they could find. The school's teachers and Muslim headmaster sat in places of honor on the front row. In chairs lined up against the front wall, several members of the outreach team sat waiting for their turn to participate in the program, while the other team members presented issues surrounding HIV/AIDS. Using songs, skits, stories and large group interaction, the team im-



acted the students through their creativity and testimony to the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. At appropriate parts in the presenta-

tion, the students responded with laughter, snickers and quiet respect. It was an amazing sight. Leaning against the back wall of the crowded rooms, I couldn't help but thank God for what was unfolding before my eyes.

Why was this outreach team of Ugandan and American young adults, from two partnering churches, answering questions about sexuality from a biblical perspective? What brought this team to a school in the Ugandan village of Kiteredde? How did it come together? The answer to each question is partnership. This particular mission team was the result of prayer and a commitment to bring together youth and adults from Kampala Baptist Church and Bethel Grove for an outreach mission to several schools in the Masaka region of Uganda.

On that July afternoon, the team tasted the fruit of our existing partnership and it was sweet.



# Barry Segal Heads To Haiti



April 15-24

An affecting opportunity to serve in a Haitian special needs orphanage has presented itself to me through a series of events. After a "chance" brief conversation on an athletic field in Chicago with a volunteer with "Kids Around the World" and a short email expressing interest in the organization I was invited to join a small group of volunteers this April to install a playground at an orphanage of Northwest Haiti Christian Ministries. As a professional, I am a playground designer and builder and now have been given the occasion to use my God given gifts and talents, along with acquired skills and passions to serve God in this unique way.

Kids Around the World is a Christian organization dedicated to serving children and families affected by war, natural disasters, illness, and poverty. They accomplish this by building playgrounds, teaching Christian education workers, providing physical check-ups and providing nutritious meals for children.

To find out more and to support this endeavor stop e it foyer, contact me by email- [segalbarry@yahoo.com](mailto:segalbarry@yahoo.com), call me at 607-279-0105 or go to <https://sna>.

## BG Students Studying Abroad

Elena Casey	Oxford, England
Gabriel Barr	Australia (Leaves in February for 1yr.)
Hannah Larson	Tanzania with Houghton
Melissa Scheffler	Thailand with Eastern College
Christine Fuchs	Spent January in Italy with Biola University
Anna Calhoun	YWAM in Colorado Africa in March

# THE CORINTHIAN CHALLENGE: I CORINTHIANS MEMORIZED



Corinth, a cosmopolitan port city, was a magnet for a variety of cultural influences. Today's university communities, like our hometown of Ithaca, NY, reflect similar diversity. From the fall of 2009 through the spring of 2010, a teaching series on I Corinthians at Bethel Grove Bible Church considered issues faced by the church at Corinth in the first century, comparing and contrasting them with concerns of our day. This memory project coincided with that teaching series.



This project tells the story of the words as memorized. First Corinthians Memorized makes this activity visible. While fidelity to a printed Bible translation is a goal, small variations occur in the recounting. After hours of learning, the words are lodged in part of the brain, free from the pages of the book to move with the learner. The videos capture the experience of searching for that lost place where a verse may be found. They also capture the rhythm of the memorized word, the delight of knowing, and the moment when eyes gaze back in time to look for a lost word. We watch the language of God moving. As we contemplate the nature of God's language, these videos remind us that the memorized Word is now free to influence one's thoughts when the learner's attention is drawn elsewhere.



As learners, we are enriched by carrying the treasure of God's word inside our heads, having it running through our minds at various times and places. We are changed as we become living bearers of these words. Each individual becomes a 'frame' or 'setting' for a passage which highlights it in a unique way. [E.g.--Nicholas enjoys bringing the character of Paul to life in ch. 16. Nature's birdsong is a foil to the earnest clarity of Sung in ch. 3. The process of memorizing is most evident in a chapter 14, learned within a deadline of about a week—a week also filled with university exams.]



With the action as the subject, the participants' recitation is woven together with images and sounds that explore how we perceive God's Word. Each distinct video (or memory) is connected by four repeating themes. The color, place, sound, and frame are used as media for exploring the message of this project. First, color is used as an idea itself: It becomes an absolute juxtaposed with the details of the image and landscape. Place literally wraps around the story. Not merely a background, it is the context for our living. In the videos, it is familiar, ambiguous, fabricated, similar, or hidden. Sound is meant to be clear, so we can get the message. Characteristics of the sound give clues to our perception of the place and time. Finally, viewers must repeatedly deal with the frame. The frame is the border between what we can see and what we cannot see. It is a limit. Within, around, or beneath these four themes questions about the influence of First Corinthians Memorized arise.



May the listener be refreshed by a new presentation of I Corinthians, and encouraged to learn part of the Bible for personal reflection.

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Corinthian Challenge participants and their guests will meet for a viewing party Sunday, January 30th, at 6 PM at the home of Linda Fuchs (36 Reach Run, Ithaca). RSVP 277-9183.

# Children's Ministry News!

**Lots of exciting things** have been happening in Promiseland since the last messenger update. In case you missed the Quarterly Meeting on 1/23/11, this overview should give you an idea of what has been happening in the children's ministry. We have really enjoyed working with the children, their parents, and the 100 volunteers that make this program the success that it is. Most classes are fully staffed with wonderful volunteers that give tirelessly of their time and love for the children. We are blessed to have many new families join our church family. At this time we are serving 56 babies- preschoolers and 50 K-5th graders who attend Sunday School and/or Children's Church or Bible Study Fellowship.

Some of the special events or new additions from last fall include:

- The Voyage of the Dawn Treader event that included: a dinner, readings from the book, watching Kathy Free create a painting of Reepicheep, lots of popcorn and desserts and attending the movie as a group.
- Christmas caroling at the McGraw House and the sharing of cookies and conversation.
- Christmas Eve Service for young families

where the children: acted out parts in a nativity skit, sang carols, heard the story of the candy cane and enjoyed celebrating Jesus' birthday with cupcakes and friends and family.

- Sunday school classes for all age groups at 9:00 including lessons on the Old and New Testaments.
- Children in grades K-3 attended Children's Church at 10:45 and learned about Famous People in Genesis and collected money for Grapesyard School in Kenya.
- Children in 4th and 5th grades attended Bible Study Fellowship at 10:45 and studied the same content as the sermon in church.
- Some new classroom additions include: a changing mat for the babies room; many new toys, a slide, kitchen, and stroller for the tiny tots room; a wall mounted changing table station for the 2's room, a bulletin board in the preschool room, a storage cupboard for the kindergarten class and a puppet stage for the older children to use in their classrooms.
- Many revised or new forms including: child registration forms, a Promiseland handbook, a Promiseland application for teens and an

incident report to be used by volunteers if a child gets injured.

## This spring we look forward to:

- The Ultimate Superstar musical practices and performance by children in grades 4-8 on April 10, under the direction of Sandy Sorensen and Zach Adams and many volunteers.
- Children attending Sunday School and continuing with their curriculum.
- Children participating in Children's Church and learning about Jesus' Amazing Miracles and watching our egg carton stack grow as we bring in money for Bethany and Jeremy Colvin's ministry in Zambia.
- Cleaning out some closets.
- Watching the children, volunteers and parents at Bethel Grove grow in their faith as they learn to serve God out of a thankful heart.

## **In Christ's Service,**

**Amy Bach**  
Promiseland  
Coordinator

**Carla Smith**  
Promiseland  
Administrative



## *Ladies Mug 'N Muffin*

Theme: Better Is One Day In Your House  
Saturday, March 5, 10am-12pm  
Family Center Building

### *Hot drinks*

### *Yummy muffins*

### *Good company*

### *Short Bible discussion*



Questions, feel free to contact:  
Janea Weber janeaweber@yahoo.com  
Cynthia Cuykendall cynthiacuyk@gmail.com

## **Dear Bethel Grove Family,**

Thank you so very much for the beautiful floral arrangement, sent to my Dad's memorial service. It really was so very gorgeous, with bright & vivid flowers of several types. We used it as a centerpiece at our family meal after the cemetery service, then I brought it home and it lasted such a long time in my office room. I stopped and sniffed the roses and carnations several times, and was pleased to have it. Everything with Dad happened so fast, that I sometimes have to remind myself that it was not a dream.

Special thanks to all the BG brothers and sisters who came to the service too! I was surprised with how many came to show their support and love.

**Love,**  
**Beth Thorp**



*Robert S. Carpenter*  
1915 - 2010

# Events For Your Calendar

## January 30 - February 5

30<sup>th</sup> - 9:00am Adult Education  
Regular Children's Program  
Newcomers Reception  
10:45am Worship Service  
*International Sunday*  
K-3rd grade regular program  
4-8th grade musical practice

2nd - 7:00pm Mid Week Worship

4th - 7:30pm Institute of Biblical Studies @ CU  
Kennedy Hall, Call Auditorium

5th - 9:00am Institute of Biblical Studies  
*daytime sessions at Bethel Grove*

## February 6 - February 12

6th - 9:00 & 10:45am Worship Services  
Winter Semester, Adult Education begins  
*combined service with New Life Presbyterian*  
Guest Speaker: Dr. Cornelius Plantinga, Jr.

7th - 7:00pm Leadership Team

8th - 9:30am MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

9th - 7:00pm Mid Week Worship

## February 13 - February 19

13th - 9:00 & 10:45am Worship Services  
*Communion Sunday*

14th - Happy Valentines Day!

17th - 7:00pm Mid Week Worship

## Recent Weddings

Christy Ambis and Lucas Lopez October 9  
Gretchen Raupp and Kevin Grant January 1  
Stephanie Schotthofer and Matt Bisek January 22

## Engagement News

Emily Scheffler and John Haller III

## February 20 - February 26

20th - 9:00 & 10:45am Worship Services  
*Baptism Sunday*

21st - Presidents Day, Office Closed

22nd - 9:30am MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

23rd - 7:00pm Mid Week Worship

## February 27 - March 5

27th - 9:00 & 10:45am Worship Services  
Louie Rudin Visit - Young Life

2nd - 7:00pm Mid Week Worship

5th - 10:00am Ladies Mug 'N Muffin Event

## March 6 - March 12

6th - 9:00 & 10:45am Worship Services  
*Communion Sunday*

8th - 9:30am MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

9th - 7:00pm Mid Week Worship

## March 13 - 19

13th - 9:00 & 10:45am Worship Services

16th - 7:00pm Mid Week Worship

## March 20 - March 27

20th - 9:00 & 10:45am Worship Services

22nd - 9:30am MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

23rd - 7:00pm Mid Week Worship

27th - 9:00 & 10:45am Worship Services  
107th Psalm Christian Family