



BETHEL GROVE BIBLE CHURCH

1763 Slaterville Rd, Ithaca, NY, 14850

THE MESSENGER

July 2011

THOUGHTS FROM DAVE

Summer Adventure

For those who love summer, New York's Finger Lakes region is the place to be. Beautiful waterfalls and gorges, expansive lakes and hiking trails make the wonders of God's creation easily accessible. People from all walks of life and many nations come to our doorstep during these months of summer.

Many of us, who experience the long cold winters of Upstate New York, escape our area for destination vacations and other forms of relaxation. Joyce and I do. Other individuals have the ability to use the summer travel season for research or ministry in various parts of the globe. In doing so, we avoid the constant road construction while enhancing the slower pace of our summer schedules. After all, summers are relatively brief in Tompkins County with college students rolling back into town in mid-August.

Recently, I have been reflecting on ways that Bethel Grove people could make the most of these summer months. We could take advantage of the State Parks, local music concerts, neighborhood picnics and other community events to do two things. First, share experiences that will help us get better acquainted with our neighbors and friends in relaxed settings. Second, these connections allow us to have meaningful conversations about what is important in our lives.

For that reason, on July 22, BG is sponsoring a golf outing to build relationships and have fun. Early in July, young families are invited to a "park day" where children can ride bikes, play at a playground and enjoy time together. Or, we can take advantage of the Saturday night music concerts at Taughannock Park by inviting our neighbors to have a picnic before the concert. Be creative and enjoy building relationships throughout these warm summer months.

An idea has been rumbling around in my mind for some time. I ask, "Why not capitalize on these Central New York summer benefits for outreach ministry?" Using the experience and resources of BG individuals, might we offer a venue that builds relationships and makes disciples at the same time? *Summer Adventure* would be a great name for this concept, as diverse activities can be designed for ministry purposes. In recent weeks, I floated the idea past a few people and they thought it is worth serious consideration for the summer of 2012. In the meantime, take advantage of this summer. Enjoy time with your neighbors and build relationships in our community for the glory of God.

JUNE 18, ANNUAL MEETING RESULTS

Elders:

Charles Cramton
Yrjo Grohn
Jeff Ives
David Larson
Ned Lacelle
Patrick Wright
Doug Weber

Deacons:

Doug Caveney
Jay Miller
Fred Scott
Jerry Sincock
Jim Smith
Paul Thorpe
Dan Walker

Deaconesses:

Donna George
Ruth Grennell
Kaisa Grohn
Dawn Jewell
Karen LaCelle
Lori Marion
Bonnie Shelford
Mary Smalley

Trustees:

Susan Barr
Jack Carpenter
Doug Stauffer

Highlights:

- The proposed 11-12 budget of \$689,718 was passed. Copies of the Annual Report are still available in the foyer.
- Associate Pastor Search Update: Keep praying for God's provision of the right person.
- Global missions affirmed our Uganda partnerships and looks forward to an October visit from three KBC women.
- Local missions offered a survey to get congregational feedback on outreach ideas.
- The need for emergency medical equipment was presented and discussed and a favorable consensus was reached.
- Jim and Suzy Olsen told of their upcoming *vision trip* to Ecuador and shared of their growing passion for cross-cultural ministry.

Treasurer

Beth Thorp

Assistant Treasurer

Jan Viands

Clerk

Sarah Myers

Express your thanks to those who have completed their terms of office:

Bob Jewel/Elder; Brian Switzer/Deacon; Dan Walker/Trustee

Wycliffe Bible Translators

BG Supports many individuals and couples serving with Wycliffe. Below are two updates.



June 5, 2011

Joshua 1:5 in Huichol: Yaxeicüata 'ahamatüa nepütüyeicani, nepücamasinutuita nepücamasicu'eirieni.

Hebrews 13:5 in Huichol: Ne yemecü nepücamasihayevani 'axaütame, nepücamasicu'eirieni hasuacu.

During the May workshop for the Huichol Old Testament translators in Mexico, I was invited to visit a group of about 200 refugee Huichol Christians living 20 miles from their state capital.

The present leader of the Huichol Christian movement was born in their home village in the Sierra Madre. But when he became a Christian around 35 years ago, he was kicked out of his town. He kept going back to preach, and every time he did, they threw him in jail, in the stocks like Paul and Silas in Acts 16:24.

A few years ago some of the townspeople got curious about why he kept coming back, so they decided to listen to him for a change. As a result more than thirty of them trusted Christ. Then they got thrown out too. On later visits others believed. Now they're creating a new community in a neutral place. Leaders have developed among them and been disciplined by other Huichol Christians. This Easter they baptized 37 new believers from there.

So I told them in Huichol the story of how the Gospel first came to the Huichols seventy years ago, how the New Testament was translated, how the church has matured because of it in spite of opposition, and how God has taken care of his people as he said he would.

In the workshop itself we did some more polishing on Genesis and reviewed over fourteen chapters of Joshua. When we got to the part about setting up the tribal boundaries in the Promised Land, it took a lot of discussion to get some of it straight. The Bible uses the same north-south-east-west framework as we do. And the Huichols use the same framework in their ritual chants: looking at where the sun comes up, it's our right (south), our left (north), our middle (east), our origin point (west), and a fifth cardinal point, right here. But when you live in the Sierra Madre, nobody uses that system to give directions. It's all uphill, downhill, around a corner, across a valley, in sight, out of sight. So the boundary of Judah goes upstream a ways from the Dead Sea instead of north, then turns left to go up a canyon. Different, but it makes sense to them.

The translators are also thinking positively about shifting to the writing system used in the bilingual schools in the sierra, rather than staying with the older system used in the printed New Testament. I just finished up a small program that switched the four first books in the Bible to the new orthography in about ten seconds. Thanks for praying for the Huichols, es-

pecially the refugees, and for those of us who work with the translators on the Old Testament.

In Christ, Joe and Barbara Grimes

84-664 Ala Mahiku St Apt. 191-B, Waianae, HI 96792, 808-695-8402



Ed Ruch Serving in the Philippines

Below are some excerpts from his recent newsletter.

In February, Ignacio, Toledo, and I talked with Lasio about starting an outreach to his brothers and cousins living on another island. We asked him to visit them and find out if they wanted us to come. As a result they sent word that they would be waiting for us on April 9. So we decided that we would start at the beginning of God's Story in Genesis and gradually lead up to the coming of the One who God had promised would come and provide salvation for mankind. So ten of us went to visit them, sharing the story of creation and then how Adam and Eve failed to trust and obey God and how the result of their failure affects everyone. It seemed to us that they were listening with their full attention because all of the chit-chat stopped. Then we asked them to decide whether or not they wanted us to return. After a 15 minute discussion, they said they wanted us to return. And so on April 30, we did that and told them the biblical stories about Cain and Abel and the flood. Again they paid close attention to the stories which they were hearing for the very first time. I was able to go with the believers two more times before I had to leave for Manila. In the meantime, the church in my village began to realize that if this outreach was going to continue, it would be up to them to support it through prayer and giving. Talk about a challenge! Toledo volunteered to take the leadership. Many were saying how sad it would be if this outreach were to stop. So I would like to invite you to pray with me for them, that through God's power, it would continue, and that many of the people who listen to their message would believe.

Because of the relatively good health I enjoyed these past months, I have decided to stay in the Philippines for one more year. Then next June, I plan to return to the U.S. for at least 3 months and maybe more. I especially want to spend some time with my Dad who will be 104 this coming November. And, of course, I want to be with my two daughters and their children.

My goals for the next 6 months are:

- Prepare the songbook for publication
- Prepare the Medical Handbook for publication
- Prepare linguistic and anthropological data for archiving
- Continue drafting OT narratives for use by the believers

Thank you so much for upholding me in prayer and helping to meet my needs as I serve here.

LOCAL MISSIONS

Looking ahead to the fall, there are several events scheduled for community outreach. Save the dates and consider how you can be involved.

Feed My Starving Children - September 9 and 10



Food packing event at Trinity Lutheran Church in Ithaca open to anyone, child through elderly, who can work a 2 hour shift.

4-6pm, **Friday, September 9**

8-10pm, **Saturday, September 10**

Hands of Christ -September 24 through October 2

Week long series of opportunities to serve in Tompkins County. Events for all ages: families, teens, singles, couples, students. Time commitments vary, 2 to 4 hours is common. Reach out and use your skills: sewing, painting, cleaning, lugging, raking



Establish the work of our hands for us! Psalm 90:17b

Pray Walk Week - October 23 through 30



Join with others in your neighborhood, small group, or work place. Many walks will be scheduled. Walk and pray for God to move in our county.

1.5 hour time commitment

Children's Ministry News!

"The Wonder of God's World"

Summer Children's Church Series

Over the summer, children in K-3rd grade are learning about the intricacies of God's handiwork. Their teachers come from our own congregation and help the students explore a wide variety of interest areas. Listed below are the topics and teachers for the summer. Also, children are memorizing verses to go along with each week's theme and collecting money for Samaritan's Purse to be used for disaster relief in Joplin, MO.

Fred Scott - Bees



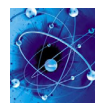
Peter Lundquist - Plants

Eileen Scheffler - Chickens



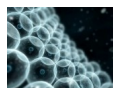
**Joanna Fisher and John Sanderson
Butterflies and Insects**

Colleen Richards - Birds and Nature



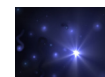
Zhen Wah Tan - Physics

Jim Casey - Fish



Nizette Aguilar - Human Cells

Steve Lantz - Stars



CSM
**Center for
Student
Missions**

BG Youth Trip to Toronto - July 17-23

"At CSM, we think two things are really important - students having a mission experience that helps them become missional leaders and local ministries that receive the support they need to make a lasting difference in the city and among those God brings there."

Be in prayer for these BG youth in the days ahead as they prepare for this missional experience. Any questions, contact Eric Hause: eric@bg.org

Leaders:

Eric Hause
Alan Pauling
Sandra Sorensen
Mary Wright

Students:

Tessa Alderman
Nathan Bach
Melinda Casey
Ashley Cristelli

Carolyn Eggleston
Mattie Hause
Whit Ives
Emma Lantz

Meghan Mapes
James Palmer
Liz Psiaki
Kelsey Sorensen

Daniel Stauffer
Tricia Thomas
Paul Westin
Michael Wright

Pancake Breakfast @ Applebee's for the BG Youth Toronto Trip

July 10, 2011 - 8:00am - 10:00am

Tickets may be purchased from any of the leaders or students listed above.



Housing Needed

Chemical Engineering Freshman

In-coming student from Virginia is looking for a place to live this fall with other Christians. E-mail amazing.grace18@verizon.net if you have or know of any possibilities within walking distance of the campus. Feel free to also call Andrew Voell at 703-304-2947.

Events For Your Calendar

July 3 - July 9

3rd 9:30am Worship Service
Aaron Hicks Speaking
4th Office Closed
6th Mid-Week Worship
9th BG Family Park Day

July 24 - 30

24th 9:30am Worship Service
Jeff Ives Speaking
Middle School and High School
Drop-in @ Psiakis
27th High School - Matt and a Movie

July 10 - July 16

10th 9:30am Worship Service
Youth Toronoto Trip Pancake
Breakfast @ Applebees
12th Middle School trip to Seabreeze Park
13th High School - Matt and a Movie
14th-16th BG Camping Trip @
Chenango Valley State Park

July 31 - August 6

31st 9:30am Worship Service
Eric Hause Speaking
Middle School and High School
Drop-in @ Ives
3rd-7th High School DAKS trip

July 17 - July 23

17th 9:30am Worship Service
Middle School Drop-in @ Freshwater's
17-23 Toronto Youth Trip
22nd Elm Tree Golf Outing

August 7 - 13

7th 9:30am Worship Service
13th Youth Blast- Alive Between the Lakes
Middle School and High School

August 28th

Return to two Services - 9:00am & 10:45am
Student Bus schedule Resumes

Golf Anyone?

BG Golfers are invited to a morning of golf at Elm Tree Golf Course (Route 13 in Cortland) on Friday July 22. Tee times begin at 8:30 am with the cost for 18 holes and cart is \$22. per person. Invite a friend, organize a foursome, or join others from BG. If you are interested in playing contact Fred Scott (539-6291) or sign-up at the welcome desk in the church foyer. Deadline for participation is Monday, July 18.



Wedding News

Joshua Carrasco
&
Betheny Prince
June 25, 2011



Their address is:
688 Altamira Circle, Apt. 206
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701