

Rejoicing From the Hills

"The little hills rejoice on every side."
-Psalm 65:12b-


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Theme for 2010: Living With Purpose


Before the world ever began, God ordained a purpose for mankind. In Adam's fall, we lost the ability to fulfill that purpose, but in Christ we regain that opportunity. 2 Timothy 1:9 says *Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.* Romans 8:28 says, *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.* And Ephesians 3:11 says, *According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

It is very clear from Scripture that God has a purpose for us in Christ. This coming year we will be looking at the formulating of that purpose before creation, the designing of that purpose in creation, and the application of that purpose in our lives as new creatures in Christ. 


Church Family Banquet Friday, December 11 6:30 P.M.

Our annual Christmas banquet will be a special time of fellowship. We have invited Stonybrook Bible Church to join with us again. Mr. Beard is planning a special meal. Our




speaker will be Pastor Mervil Stambaugh from Pond Bank Independent Church near Chambersburg. Pastor Stambaugh's wife is Pastor Moss' sister. Please sign up to let us know for how many to prepare. There will be an opportunity to give an offering toward the expenses of the meal. 

Children's Program Sunday, December 20 9:30 A.M.


This will be a unique presentation by our children and young people who will share things they have learned in their Sunday School classes. 

Christmas Program Sunday December 20 10:45 A.M.

A special musical program is being prepared to help us rejoice in the coming of our Savior over 2,000 years ago. Some of our young people will participate by presenting a dramatic reading of the Scriptures that tell us about our Savior's birth. 




Candle Light Service Wednesday December 24 7:00 P.M.

This is a very special candle light service with some special sacred music, praising God for sending His Son to save us from our sins. 



Christmas Card Box

The Christmas card box will be available once again for you to share your cards with one another within the church family. Please arrange your cards alphabetically to make it easier to sort them. The box will be in the narthex until Wednesday December 16, which is the deadline for submitting your cards. Cards for missionaries and anyone not listed in our current directory should be mailed to them directly. 

2009
Pocket
Calendars
Available
In Narthex

A GOSPEL MESSAGE FOR YOU

Have you asked Jesus Christ to save you? If not, will you accept Him as your Saviour now? The following will explain what you need to do.

1. **ADMIT THAT YOU ARE A SINNER.** The Bible says, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23
2. **KNOW THAT GOD HAS ALREADY PROVIDED FOR YOUR SALVATION.** "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16
3. **KNOW THAT YOU CANNOT SAVE YOURSELF.** "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us." Titus 3:5a
4. **REPENT OF YOUR SIN.** "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of." II Corinthians 7:10. "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:3
5. **ASK JESUS CHRIST TO SAVE YOU.** "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be **SAVED.**" Romans 10:13. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be **SAVED.**" Acts 16:31
6. **CONFESS JESUS BEFORE MEN.** "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead thou shalt be **SAVED.** For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:9-10

If you have any questions or would like further spiritual help, please contact us at the North Hills Bible Church. Our phone number is 757-1316.

Rejoicing From The Hills

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Our Purpose

Soul winning at home and abroad
Bible teaching conducive
to Christian Living

Our Staff

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Library News

by Brenda Hamme, Librarian

This month the library is introducing a new series of chapter books for young readers, THE CUL-DE-SAC KIDS, by Beverly Lewis. The high-spirited, warm-hearted boys and girls who live on Blossom Hill Lane encounter realistic (and often funny) predicaments that all point to Jesus as the ultimate mystery-solver. The first three books are:

The Double Dabble Surprise
The Chicken Pox Panic
The Crazy Christmas Angel Mystery

Also new just in time for Christmas reading to small children is Baby *Jesus Is Here!*, a touch-and-feel board book with very few words.

While the accounts recorded in Matthew and Luke should be the primary source of information about God sending His Son, our Savior, to earth, there are a number of resources in the library which may be of interest to your family at this special time of year.

Books - *Baby Jesus Is Born*

The Night the Angels Sang
The Story of Baby Jesus
God Gave Us Christmas
Spunky's First Christmas
The Christmas Story
Jesus Is Born!
The Candymaker's Gift
The Legend of the Candy Cane

DVDs - *The King Is Born*

Children's Christmas Program - 2008

Videos - *Electric Christmas*

'Twas the Fight Before Christmas

Cassettes - *Harold the King* (Patch the Pirate)
Several from Adventures in Odyssey

Loving His Appearing

Chapter Six

Wait, Look, and Watch Assiduously

A parent says to their child, "I expect this to be done by the time I get back." In this use of the word "expect" there is often a note of uncertainty as to whether the child will be responsible or not. But when a woman with a child in her womb says, "I am expecting," there is no uncertainty about what is going to happen. A woman with child does not say, "I think I am going to have a baby." She says, "I am expecting the birth of my child."

When Titus 2:13 says we are *looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ*, it means that we are expecting this event to happen just as surely as a woman with child is expecting a birth. As members of the body of Christ, we should live every day of our lives with this expectancy.

WE ARE TOLD TO WAIT FOR JESUS TO COME

Remaining

1 Thessalonians 1:10 says, *And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.* The word "wait" is identified with Strong's number 362 (anameno) and means to remain in the midst of. The Thessalonian believers were in the midst of a lot of difficult things. God wanted them to be stable, steady, and unmoved by it all. In 1 Thessalonians 4:18 He indicated that sharing words about the rapture would offer them comfort. In 1 Thessalonians 5:11, He told them they could be comforted also by understanding that they were children of the day and that future events coming on the world as a thief in the night would not overtake them. With these comforting thoughts, they could easily remain in the midst of all their troubles, waiting for Jesus to come in the rapture.

Assiduously

Waiting for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is also the subject of 1 Corinthians 1:7. In this verse, the word wait is identified with Strong's number 553 (apekdechoma) and means to assiduously wait for

something. Assiduously means to be diligent and attentive with earnestness, with care, and with regular attendance. Accordingly, our waiting for Jesus to come is not to be an idle pass time. Rather, it is to be like a child whose father has gone away and promised to return. The child sits at the window watching the road, expecting his father to come home any moment, anxiously anticipating the first glimpse of him as he approaches the house.

WE ARE TOLD TO LOOK FOR JESUS TO COME

Assiduously

Philippians 3:20 says, *For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.* In this verse, the words "look for" are identified with Strong's number 553, the same number translated as "wait" in 1 Corinthians 1:7. In combination with the translation of "look for" in this verse, we have a clearer sense of what it means to assiduously wait for Christ's coming. It is not a matter of just enduring the intervening time. It involves an active anticipation.

Expect

Titus 2:13 also uses the English term "looking for," but in this verse the English term is identified with Strong's number 4237 (prosdechomai) which means to expect. This is the same sense as mentioned in the introduction to this chapter, as a woman with a child in her womb is expecting that birth to happen. This is how intently we should be looking for the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

WE ARE TOLD TO WATCH FOR JESUS TO COME

Pay Attention

1 Thessalonians 5:1 makes mention of the "times and seasons." It makes this reference right after a description of the rapture in chapter 4:13-18. It also makes this reference in the context of a mention of the day of the Lord in chapter 5 verse 2. Therefore, the times and seasons mentioned in verse one of chapter 5 must be referring to these end time events, namely the rapture and the day of the Lord. The Thessalonian believers were apparently well versed in these matters.

Then in chapter 5 verse 6 we are told to *watch and be sober*, and not sleep as others do. The night and the darkness and the thief will overtake the sleepers (verses 2-4), but not believers who are of the day. Children of the day are not overtaken because they are watchers. The word watch is identified with

Strong's number 1127 (gregoreo) and means to give strict attention to. As believers give strict attention to coming events promised by God's Word, they will not be overcome, *For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him* (Verse 9-10).

Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do (verse 11).

Calmly

1 Thessalonians 5:6 also uses the word sober in reference to our watching for things to come. The word sober is identified with Strong's number 3525 (nepho) and means to be calm and collected in spirit. This Strong's numbered word is used a total of six times in Scripture. Four times it is translated "sober," and two times it is translated "watch." It is used in 2 Timothy 4:5 where it says, *But watch thou in all things.* It is used in Hebrews 13:17 where it says, *Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account...* So in 1 Thessalonians 5:6, God instructs us to watch and to watch, but with these particular nuances: give strict attention to what we expect to happen, but do it calmly, remaining collected in our spirit.

Not everything we expect to happen in the future is good. But everything we expect to happen for the church is good. So there is no need for us to worry. We wait in the midst of everything with earnestness and care, expecting Christ's arrival. We give strict attention to His coming and we do so calmly.

CONSIDER

That Which Is Not Good

1 Thessalonians 5:2 tells us that the day of the Lord is coming. Verse 3 says that when the day of the Lord comes, men will be saying, "Peace and Safety." But the day of the Lord will bring sudden destruction, like labor pains that suddenly begin and cannot be avoided. Verse 4 adds that the day of the Lord will overtake, or take possession of, those in darkness who are unaware of what is coming. Verses 6 and 7 explain that those in the night and those in the darkness sleep, that is, they are not paying attention and are unconscious to what is coming. They are also drunken, that is under the influence of the darkness. Consequently, verse 9 concludes that these are appointed to wrath.

That Which Is Good

In contrast to this, verse 5, says that believers are not of the night, nor of the darkness. Verse 4 affirms that the day of the Lord will not overtake believers, that is, it will not take us into its hold or take possession of us. Verse 5 explains that we are of the day (not of the night) and we are of the light (not of the darkness). Verse 9 concludes that believers have been appointed to obtain salvation (not wrath). Verse 10 explains that the reason for this is that God's purpose for us is that we live together with Him.

Conclusion

So – while those who are of the night say "peace and safety," with no expectation of what is to come, let us who believe in Christ, expect His coming. 1 Thessalonians 5:6, let us watch, pay attention, look out the window anticipating that first glimpse as He approaches earth.

Let us also anticipate His coming. To expect means to believe that something will happen. To anticipate means to look forward eagerly to the event, to picture it in the mind's eye, to seize in advance, as it were, the experience to come. Imagine coming to someone's house for dinner. You walk into the home, you smell the food, and your mouth begins to water. That is anticipation! Our mouth should water, our spirit should drool at the thought of the appearing of Jesus Christ in the cloud in the air. That is what it means to love His appearing (2 Timothy 4:8). 📖

Loving His Appearing

Chapter Seven

When is Then?

When is the rapture going to happen? We expect Christmas to come and we anticipate Christmas. But the date for Christmas is set and we know when it will be. When can we expect the rapture to happen for which we do not have a set date? 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 gives a description of an order of events which may help us understand something about the timing of the rapture. Verse 1 makes a reference to the rapture by saying *Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him.* After this verse 3 says, "first," and verse 8 says, "then." What comes first, what comes then and how does the rapture fit into these two things?

THE ORDER OF EVENTS

A Statement About The Second Coming

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 is an obvious reference to the Second Coming of Christ at the end of the tribulation period. It says that Jesus will be revealed (apocolypted) from heaven *in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.* This clearly corresponds to other statements about the Second Coming such as Matthew 24:30 with Matthew 25:41 and 46.

The Relationship of the Second Coming to Other Events

2 Thessalonians 2:2 mentions the Day of Christ. There has been a lot of discussion about the meaning of the Day of Christ and whether or not it is the same as the Day of the Lord which relates at least in part to the tribulation period. If we allow the context to influence the interpretation of this phrase, the Day of Christ here must relate to the events of the Second Coming as discussed in the verses of chapter one just preceding this statement.

Applying this interpretation to the text, 2 Thessalonians 2:3 then tells us that the Day of Christ, that is the Second Coming, shall not come until two other things happen, FIRST: there must be a falling away, and that man of sin, the son of perdition, must be revealed. The man of sin is identified in the text as that wicked one (verse 8), whose coming is after the working of Satan (verse 9), who will sit in the temple as God (verse 4). We are also told that the man of sin cannot be revealed until he that lets be taken out of the way.

So this is the summary of the order of events as outlined in this text: Something or someone is not letting the man of sin be revealed. That something or someone will be taken out of the way. Then the man of sin can be revealed. Then he can come after the working of Satan. Then he can sit in the temple as God. Then Christ will come in the Second Coming.

Crucial to this chronology are the words "until" in verse 7 and "then" in verse 8. These words connect to the moment the restrainer (he who lets) is taken out of the way. This leads us to our big question, when is then? To answer this question we must identify the restrainer.

IDENTIFYING THE RESTRAINER/WITHHOLDER

Observations About The Text

The words "withhold" and "let" in 2 Thessalonians 2:6-7 are the same word. Both are identified with Strong's number 2722, *katecho*. *Katecho* is a compound word made up of the two words *kata*, which means "against", and *echo*, which means "to hold". The two translations of this word show the two sides of the concept. On the one hand there is a withholding or restraining from doing something, while on the other hand the limit of activity is indicated by what is let or allowed as opposed to what is not allowed.

There are two different descriptions of the withholder. In verse 6 there is a neuter identification when the text says *what withholdeth*. In verse 7 there is a masculine identification when the text says *he who now letteth will let until*.

The withholder prevents the man of sin from being revealed. The elements of this withholding are as follows: the man of sin must be revealed before the Second Coming can occur (verse 3); the withholder prevents the man of sin from being revealed before his time (verse 4); when the withholder is taken out of the way (verse 7), then that wicked one can be revealed (verse 9).

The withholder withholds for a long time. Verse 7 says the withholder is the one who NOW lets and that he will let UNTIL the man of sin will be revealed. Since the man of sin was already withholding when Paul wrote this letter to the Thessalonians and he has not yet been revealed in our time, that is a long time to withhold the man of sin.

The withholder is able to stop all the power of Satan. Verse 7-9 tells us that the mystery of iniquity is already working, but Satan is not allowed to reveal the man of sin which involves all of Satan's power. The man of sin, that wicked one, comes after the working of Satan with all power, signs, lying wonders, and deceivableness of unrighteousness. This is what the withholder must be able to hold back. It is only when the withholder is taken out of the way that the man of sin can be revealed, so whoever the withholder is, he is able to withhold all these powers of Satan.

Identifying the Holy Spirit As The Withholder

Restraining the enemy is a ministry of the Holy Spirit. Isaiah 59:19 says, *When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a*

standard against him. Not coincidentally, Revelation 12:16 describes the dragon who is Satan as cast a flood out of his mouth. This suggests that the enemy referred to by Isaiah is Satan.

When Jesus was on earth, He had made himself of no reputation and was anointed with the Holy Spirit who was the power source for all of Christ's miracles. These miracles included counteracting the powers of the devil exhibited in human bodies. Acts 10:38 says, *How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.*

Why do you think the devil flees when believers resist him (James 4:7)? Why is it that believers can successfully stand against the wiles of the devil (Ephesians 6:10-20)? It is because every believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the member of the Godhead who particularly resists and restrains the devil.

In addition to this, there is a statement in John 15:26 which refers to the Holy Spirit in both neuter and masculine terms. The verse says, *But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me.* The word "whom" is masculine and the word "which" is neuter. Both clearly refer to the Holy Spirit in the statement. This shows that the neuter and masculine references to the withholder in 1 Thessalonians chapter 2 are in harmony with an interpretation of the Holy Spirit being the withholder.

Why The Angel Michael Does Not Match This

In Daniel 10:13 and 21, Michael is described as assisting in withstanding demonic attackers in heaven. Verse 13 says Michael helped the messenger angel dispatched to Daniel and the two of them together remained in that situation for some unspecified period of time. Verses 20 and 21 tells us that this messenger angel needs to return to fight with Michael against these attackers. This means that Michael was still engaged in this battle and not able to win it alone. If he could not win a battle with a limited number of Satan's followers, how would he be able to withhold all of Satan's power by himself?

Daniel 12:1 tells us that Michael will stand up for Israel in the time of trouble, a reference to the tribulation period. The withholder in 1 Thessalonians chapter 2 is taken out of the way before the man of sin

is revealed. It is the man of sin that Michael will need to stand up against on behalf of Israel. So Michael cannot be taken away and then still be around to stand up for Israel.

Revelation 12:7-9 tells us that Michael will have a war with Satan at some point in the future. Michael will win and the devil will be cast out of heaven into the earth. The timing of this war is in conjunction with the tribulation period because verse 13 tells us that *when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.* This is the context in which Michael will be standing up for Israel. If Michael is warring with Satan in the tribulation period, he could not have been taken away before the man of sin is revealed.

The Old Testament Pictures of Similar Scenarios

First we must acknowledge the distinction between Israel and the church. In this age, everyone who is saved, Jew or Gentile, is placed into the church, the body of Christ. Galatians 3:28 says that in Christ there is no distinction between Jews or Greeks, between bond or free, between male or female, *for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.* The promises made to Israel are related to the earth and a literal kingdom (Genesis 15:18-21), while the promises to the church are related to glorification and heaven (Romans 8:29ff; Philippians 3:20). When the restrainer is removed, or when the Holy Spirit is taken out of the way, the church must also be taken out of the way because of the promise of permanent indwelling in the members of the body of Christ. Israel will remain on earth to fulfill the 70th week of Daniel (Daniel 9:24-27). This is in perfect harmony with the distinction between the promises made to Israel and the church.

1. The First Old Testament Picture

When God informed Abraham that He was going to destroy Sodom, Abraham asked God if He was going to destroy the righteous with the wicked (Genesis 18:23). God said He would spare the whole city if He found 50 righteous people within the city. Abraham bargained with God until God said He would spare the city if He found even 10 righteous people within it (Genesis 18:32). Unfortunately, there were not even 10 righteous people in the city of Sodom, so God removed the remaining righteous people before He destroyed the city (Genesis 19).

This same scenario is found in the Israelites' crossing of the red sea. In Exodus 14:20, a restrainer or withholder stood between Israel and the Egyptian army preventing the enemy from touching the

Israelites. In verses 21-22, the Israelites were taken to safety by crossing the sea on dry land. In verse 23, the withholder was removed and the Egyptian army pursued Israel only to find itself decimated by the wrath of God.

These two illustrations describe the kind of scenario that will occur in the rapture. Saints will be removed first and then comes the wrath of God after the saints are gone.

2. The Second Old Testament Picture

In the case of Noah and the flood, we usually view this as a removal of the saints and then the wrath comes. However, Jesus described this in a different way. In Matthew 24:37-39, Jesus relates the event of the flood with the events of the tribulation period. He says that people in the days of Noah were continuing their daily lives right up to the moment that Noah and his family entered the ark. In verse 39, Jesus said that these people on the outside of the ark *knew not until the flood came, and took THEM all away*. It was not Noah and his family, the saints, that were taken away. It was the wicked who were taken away and the saints remained.

There are also events in Old Testament in which God withdrew His resident glory from the temple. In 1 Samuel chapter 4, the Israelites took the ark of the covenant from the Holy of Holies to use as an icon on the battle field. They could not have done so if the glory of God were dwelling on it in the Holy of Holies. In fact, it was this withdrawal of the resident glory of God that made Israel vulnerable to its enemy. A similar scenario is described in Ezekiel 11:22-23. The resident glory of God was removed from the temple and Israel became vulnerable to its enemy.

This is the way it will be at the time of the Second Coming of Christ. The resident glory of God will be withdrawn from the earth when the church will be raptured. Israel will become vulnerable to its enemy during the tribulation period. At the end of that seven years when Christ comes to establish His kingdom, the wicked are the ones who will be taken away while the saints remain. In the event of the flood, Noah and his family remained on earth protected from the wrath of God and coming out on the other side of it safe and sound to a new dispensation. This connects with the parable of the tares of the field in Matthew chapter 13 in which the wheat and the tares grow together until harvest time at which time the tares are taken away first and then the wheat remains. Israel will survive the tribulation period and after the

Second Coming will enjoy the promised kingdom with Christ their Messiah reigning over them.


Summary

There are two different pictures in the Old Testament because there are two different simultaneous scenarios in the future. The Holy Spirit throughout this age across all generations throughout the world restrains and, withholds the mystery of iniquity so that the man of sin cannot be revealed. When the rapture happens, the residence of the Holy Spirit is removed from the earth so that He is taken out of the way. [It is important to recognize the difference between the concept of the residence of God and the omnipresence of God. God is always everywhere present in all three Persons of His Godhead. At the same time He can be resident in specific places such as the Holy of Holies in the temple and in the bodies of believers.] In the tribulation period, the Holy Spirit will be no less present than He was in the Old Testament when God withdrew His glory from the temple. But when the church departs, the Holy Spirit will no longer be resident on earth. Also, when the church departs Israel remains on earth. The 70th week of Daniel then begins. Israel becomes vulnerable to the man of sin who is revealed by the working of Satan.

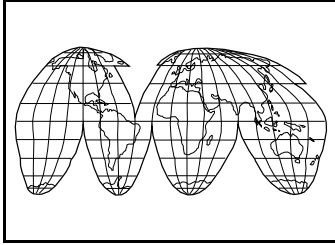
Conclusion

There can be no tribulation period without the man of sin being revealed. Therefore the rapture happens before the tribulation period begins because the Holy Spirit is the withholder, the withholder must be taken away before the man of sin can be revealed, and the Holy Spirit cannot be taken away without the church being taken away because the church has been promised the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

So when is then? All the unfulfilled prophetic signs given in Scripture point to the tribulation period. None of those prophetic signs point to the rapture. For example, the revealing of the man of sin will indicate that the tribulation period is beginning, but the rapture will have already happened before the man of sin is revealed. Therefore, there is no means for us to identify a specific time when the rapture will happen. James 5:8 says *the coming of the Lord draweth nigh*. The word "nigh" means to be close in time or space. If the coming of the Lord was nigh in the first century when James wrote those words, how much closer is it now? That is the closest we can come to identifying when the rapture will happen.

The question is, are you ready? 

Missionary News



*From
Around
The World
and
Here at Home*

Joy Baker
Germany

Wellsprings

Tom has finished his rewording of the archaic Turkish text of Proverbs into modern Turkish. It is my desire to find time to read through his work and compare it with Proverbs in other languages. After that it should be a simple matter to cut and paste the verses from Tom's work under the appropriate categories in *Wellsprings*, the translation of which was completed a year ago. Do pray that we can get this valuable resource on the website this winter at the latest.

Life in the Great Ice Age

The German translation is now complete. We have a distributor, but need wisdom on finding a printer. Please pray that we can soon see this part of the project completed. Do pray also that we will be able to find a competent translator to do the Turkish version.

Moises & Rosa Campos
Spain

We are preparing a youth retreat for the beginning of December, with the theme: "**You Decide.**" They need to see the importance of making good decisions in life, because they will be in the future according with the steps they take now.

Moises has traveling to Madrid and Salamanca with the Bible Exhibit. He was invited to preach in two churches and the pastor there had arranged for him to be at the university, a public library and a town hall. We hope and **pray that many unbelievers that came and heard about the inspiration of the Bible will see their need of being saved.** It is our desire that the Christians also learned more about the history of our Bible so that they will love it even more. Thanks for praying for safety on the road during the many hours of traveling; and also for our church on the two Sundays that he was away.

We thank the Lord for the many prayers of the believers on our behalf. **We know that we are not alone in the ministry**, but from far away there are many people doing the work with us. Thank you for all that you are doing.

Don & Karen Kilmer

On Furlough from South Africa

We were in New Jersey and on the way home we stopped in Philadelphia, PA to see the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall where the **Declaration of Independence** was signed.

While taking some pictures, we met two park rangers who walk around and make sure there are no problems. They were so excited to hear that we are missionaries to South Africa.

We got to witness to them and tell them that the **Bible gives a declaration of dependence.** This means that we depend on the Bible to show us the right way. Because we have sinned and taken the wrong way, we need Jesus as our Savior and the Bible as our guide. True liberty comes through Jesus.

Thank you for remembering us in prayer for our ministry among the Zulus and also while we are on furlough.

Roberto & Imelda Livioco

Philippines

You may have heard of the tragedies that have happened to our country due to **typhoon**. Most badly hit is Pasig City (where we live), Cainta and Marikina (where some of our church members live), virtually all of Metro-Manila and a few provinces.

First, I thank God, our family has been spared from any casualty. We even had church service although about a third of our regular church attenders were absent.

It is almost like the Lord wanted us to have a slight taste of His wrath as it was on Noah's day. Because of this, more and more people here are beginning to call this a wake-up call. As members of the Adamic race and as part of the body of Christ, we desire to use this situation as an opportunity to see God get the glory by being a gospel witness and by being able to give a helping hand to those in need. After all, Scripture commands us: "As we have therefore opportunity, **let us do good unto all men**, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Galatians 6:10.



Note: The Livioco family and their church members were able to help with distributing bags of supplies to those in need and add a tract and a gospel witness.



They were able to reach some 500 families in one night.



They added: "It was quite an experience for us to go through the stinking floods in a truck amid the occasional rains. Yet, despite the emotional trauma, heart-rending sites, physical discomfort and inconvenience; the joy of the Lord was evident as our church brethren got involved in responding to the needs of the times by extending help and offering hope in Jesus Christ."



Len & Marie Smith

New Mexico

Bible Studies by Mail - Read what one student writes:

"I have been saved for five months now. I used to be stressed about my case, my family, about a lot of things. I used to have a lot of anger and hatred towards the people who arrested me and against the people who told on me. But since January 5, 2009, I've changed. Accepting Jesus as my Savior has completely changed my way of acting, thinking and being. I thank God for letting me get into my situation now, because if it weren't for Him, I would have never come to accept Jesus as my Savior here in jail."



Preschoolers

taught by Mrs. Moss

The Preschoolers have been learning about the Tabernacle in the wilderness. One Sunday they got to help bring things for making the Tabernacle - gold, wood, cloth, etc. Another Sunday they handled and felt what all the different coverings on the Tabernacle may have been like. Another day they sampled bread similar to what would have been on the table of showbread. They experienced the smell of incense as we learned about the alter of incense. They were especially excited for the day that they could finally look inside the peep-box in the room display, and see what was in the holy of holies!



The children have been learning the 10 Commandments, and the meaning of the different Tabernacle pieces. They are also happily working on some songs for Christmas.

Primaries

taught by Mr. and Mrs. Smith

Our class is continuing their study on the Life of David. We repeatedly stress with the children the need to spend time with God through His Word and prayer. They have been really listening well.

We have been singing and signing a lot of our songs. The children have been participating more enthusiastically. It is a joy to see and hear them praising the Lord.

We continue to work on verses from Psalm 103:8-15. We are slowly memorizing this passage. Continue to help your child as we are not starting any new verses till we master these a little better.

Juniors

taught by Mr. and Mrs. Cook

We have finished our overview study of Paul's letters from Colossians through Titus. We studied a different letter each week, learning when, why, and to whom the letter was written; then we studied key verses in each book.

As we've been memorizing 1 Corinthians 13, we've been talking about what love really is--the great love that God has for us, how we should love others, and how we can know if someone truly loves us. What a wonderful "love checklist" God has given us in these verses!



For the next several months, we will be studying the lives of Samuel, Saul, David, and Solomon. We will also begin a new set of verses to memorize from Matthew 7, reminding us to beware of false prophets, to have a life full of good fruit, and to build our lives on the Rock and not the sand.



Sunday School taught by Mr. Chris Knuth

In the teen Sunday school class we just finished the introduction section and began the public ministries of Christ.

Sunday nights we are still coming together as a group to have fun and learn about Christ.

Quizzing

by Quiz Coach, Mrs. Moss

The teens are progressing through the book of Ephesians by doing 5 new verses each week. As the material accumulates it becomes increasingly more difficult to keep all the little details in place. Beginning in December we will create teams within our group and have competitions during our quiz practice time on Wednesday evenings. This is in preparation for our competitions with other churches that will begin in January.



"Very deep in thought - please do not disturb the thinking process!"

"I think I got it. Is it....."



HOMESCHOOL NEWS

Led by Dawn Balcom



On October 8th, the students visited the Indian Steps Museum in Airville, Pa. We learned about the Indians that lived around the Susquehanna River and their way of life. An American Holly Tree which is believed to be 350 years old and was here when the pilgrims came, continues to grow on the grounds. We ate lunch together and the younger children made colorful headbands while they waited for the adults and teens to finish. Afterward, our group hiked the steep Ulmer-Root-Haines trail to view a waterfall.

Classes were held on October 22nd and November 12th.

The teens had a small engine class with Mr. Cook in which they learned about the engine and then assembled it. The engine was in running condition at the completion of the class. Congratulations! Gym and writing classes continue to stretch the teens mentally and physically.

Students in grades 1-6 wrote about the missionary conference (see bulletin board) and made Christmas cards. For gym class, baseball, basketball and the "parachute" were enjoyed.

Preschool/kindergarten students enjoyed painting and gluing various projects and also enjoyed story time. Gym class was hopscotch, riding "bikes", baseball and the "parachute."



Master Clubs

Director - Nathaniel Wertz

"The Lord is my Shepherd"... is our class motto. We are the kindergarten and preschool class. We start our evening with songs and the presentation of our earned awards.



Then we join with the 1st through 3rd graders to play an exciting round of games led by Mr. Moss.



After game time we go to our classrooms to study our Scriptures and have book time. This year Miss Hamme has the K-4 class with Grace Balcom, Hannah Wertz, and Emily Pinto. Mrs. Felty has the K-5 class with Jeremiah Smith, Donovan Bryant, Emma Kay Laning, and Matthew Kanost. We are looking forward to memorizing our Bible Scriptures to earn our badges. Mr. Balcom is great at listening to the children say their verses.

By Mrs. Felty



CALENDAR

YEAR OF EVENTS



DECEMBER

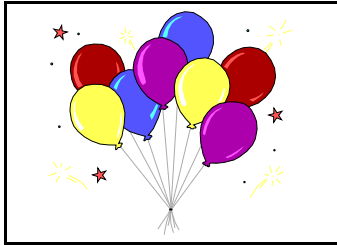
- 3 - Senior Outing
- 11 - Christmas Banquet 6:30 PM
- 12 - Men's Bible Class 9:00 AM
- 15 - Trustees Meeting 6:30 PM
- 16 - TAP Ministry 8:00 AM
- 17 - Homeschooler's Go 9-12 AM
- Christmas Caroling
- 19 - Cantata Practice 8:00 AM
- 19 - Children's Program Practice 9:30-12 AM
- 19 - Teen's Christmas Celebration 5-9:30 PM
- 20 - Children's Program 9:30 AM
- 20 - Cantata 10:45 AM
- 20 - Manor Care Service 1:30 PM
- 21 - Rescue Mission Service 8:00 PM
- 24 - Christmas Eve Service 7:00 PM
- 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS**
- 26 - Men's Bible Class 9:00 AM
- 29 - Prison Ministry 7:00 PM
- 31 - Prison Ministry 8:00 PM



JANUARY

- 9 - Men's Bible Class 9:00 AM
- 10 - Pleasant Acres Service 1:45 PM
- 14 - Homeschool Classes 9-12 AM
- 19 - Trustees Meeting 6:30 PM

Church Family News



Happy Birthday

December

- 1 - Grace Balcom
- 1 - Manuel Morales
- 5 - **Moises Campos**
- 6 - Doris Knudsen
- 7 - Sarah Byers
- 8 - **Elisabeth Campos**
- 10 - **Anna Pinyol**
- 15 - Joyce Moss
- 16 - Reg Stelfox
- 20 - Julie Boyer
- 22 - Beth Ann Flohr
- 24 - John Kanost
- 26 - Jonathan Kahler
- 27 - Marian Cosgrove
- 31 - Jeannie Geesey

January

- 5 - Donald Tawney
- 9 - Jim Beath
- 10 - Brandon Byers
- 15 - Cindy Smith
- 16 - Ryan Knuth
- 17 - Lorraine Beath
- 18 - Joe Feltenberger
- 18 - **Eunice Livio**
- 20 - Romaine Feltenberger
- 23 - Chris Knuth



Happy Anniversary

December

- 4 - **Roberto & Imelda Livio**
- 20 - Wayne & Dewanna Laning
- 22 - Earl & Connie Morrow
- 28 - Chris & Heather Knuth
- 28 - Kermit & Cindy Smith
- 28 - Barry & Mary Shelly

January

- 11 - Greg & Shirley Beard
- 18 - Woody & Mandy Felty

Please Note!

The purpose of printing these lists is to give the church family an opportunity to congratulate one another on these special days. The **bold print** indicates a member of our missionary family.



Daddy's Christmas Present

The other day a little girl told me she was going to give her father a pair of slippers at Christmas.

"Where will you get the money from?" I asked.

She opened her eyes like saucers, and said, "Why, Daddy will give me the money."

I was silent for a minute as I thought about the dear man buying his own Christmas present. But the father loved his little girl for the gift, although he had to pay for it.

She had nothing in the world that he had not given to her.

We have nothing of our own to give to God. We can only give back what belongs to Him.

Remember Our Shut-ins



Lorraine Beath, Jean Beck, Bessie Boyer, Carl Fair, Harold and Jeanie Geesey, Pam Grove, Gloria Hevner, Ethel Leib, Dorothy Moore, Harriet Moyer, Ivy Pyle, Treva Shellenberger, Sara Sipe, Donald and Marian Tawney, Hilda Wallace, Elmira Wise, Mildred Zorbaugh.