

Rejoicing From the Hills

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

Vol. 20, No. 1

A Publication of the North Hills Bible Church

January, February, 2012

Theme for 2012

Declaring the Testimony of God **1 Corinthians 2:1**



Paul said to the Corinthian believers, *And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God* (1 Corinthians 2:1). There were many people throughout Bible times that had the same testimony in their lives. Their lives were not about themselves, but about the presence and working of God in their lives.

This year, under the theme, **Declaring The Testimony of God**, we will study the lives of people in the Bible who did just that. Some of them may be well known to us and some of them may not. But all the people we will look at this year faithfully declared the testimony of God through what they said and what they did. Hopefully the testimony of their lives will encourage us to do the same. 📖

Congregation Meeting

The annual congregation meeting will be held Sunday, January 22 after the morning service. If the weather is bad it will be held the following Sunday.

Bible Conference

March 25-28



Wednesday March 25-28. The speaker will be Dr. Robert Congdon. Brother Congdon was a missionary in the United Kingdom. In 2007, he started his own independent ministry, Congdon Ministries International.

Dr. Congdon seeks to bring Biblical understanding of the relationship of Israel and the church to church leadership and the people in the pew. Through pulpit messages, Bible seminars, and church conferences, he assists the local church and enables Bible believers to understand and to defend their

We will be having a Bible Conference this year. It will take place Sunday through

belief in the Rapture, the coming Tribulation, the Second Coming of Christ, and the 1000-year Millennial rule of Christ upon the earth. Congdon Ministries offers Bible teaching assistance to local churches and their leadership throughout the world. Many churches lack sufficient background to counter the challenges by movements, such as the purpose-driven church, the emerging church, post-modernism theology, Replacement Theology, New Calvinism, etc.

Mark your calendar and begin to invite your family and friends to this special event. 📖

Ladies Missionary Project

February 25

Our church ladies will again do a winter project. Saturday, February 25. At 10:00 a.m. we will meet in the fellowship hall to make Wordless Books for our missionaries.

Another hands-on project this year will be to get a mailing ready for Servant's Heart Camp.

Time will be spent in prayer for our missionaries and then we will have lunch together and continue our fellowship as we enjoy the dish each lady brings to share.

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.

Library News

by Brenda Hamme, Librarian

As we begin a new year, it seems fitting to add some books to the library from a new source. Titus 2 is a ministry of the Steve Maxwell family, whose purpose is to encourage, exhort, and equip Christian families.

The Maxwells began homeschooling their children in 1985, so have experienced both the blessings and challenges of this commitment. Since that time, the parents have written a number of books separately and together. Being added to the library this month is:

Homeschooling with a Meek and Quiet Spirit

As a homeschooling mom, Teri Maxwell, knows and communicates from first-hand experience the struggle for a meek and quiet spirit. She offers practical insights that any mom, homeschooling or not, can apply to her individual circumstances and transparently shares the struggles God has brought her through and what He has shown her during these many homeschooling years. This is a relatively short book, but it is full of helpful thoughts.

The Maxwells' oldest daughter, Sarah, began writing books for children several years ago. The **MOODY FAMILY SERIES** recounts the everyday adventures and positive examples of a Christian homeschool family with four children. The first two books are:

Summer with the Moodys

Come along with the Moody family as they help a widowed neighbor, start small businesses for the children (and experience several surprises), enjoy a family fun night, and just live normal life.

Autumn with the Moodys

Join the Moody family as they homeschool, experience moving adventures, make an emergency trip to the doctor's office, and much more.

Rejoicing From The Hills

A publication of
The North Hills Bible Church
1951 North Hills Road
York, PA 17406-1831

David E. Moss, Pastor
Church Phone (717) 757-1316
Home Phone (717) 600-2525

Our Purpose

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

Our Staff

Pastor Moss - Editor in Chief
Joyce Moss - Assistant Editor
Ruth Warner - Staff Assistant

Loving His Appearing

Chapter Twenty Six

The Final Installment

Do We Appreciate the Promise?

John 14:1-3; 2 Peter 3:1-5; Revelation 22:6-21

Introduction

Why would a loving God allow so much trouble in the world? This is a question many ask in their scepticism about God as they see all the trouble that exists. Their idea of a loving God, if God exists at all, is that He would prevent trouble from ever happening. The truth is, trouble in the world is not God's fault. Trouble in the world is of our own making. And because God does love us, He has promised to rescue us out of trouble – if we believe in Him.

Our Place

1. The Context of John 14:1

On the night that Jesus was to be betrayed, He had a long talk with His disciples. His teaching on that night began with His washing the disciples feet (John 13:1-17). He then declared that He was going away and where He was going, the disciples could not go along (John 13:31-36). Peter insisted he would follow Christ to the death (John 13:37). But Jesus told Peter that he would deny Him three times before the night was over (John 13:38).

2. Jesus invited His disciples to believe in Him.

It is in this context that Jesus said, "let not your heart be troubled." Remarkable words following immediately after telling Peter he would deny Him. It is your choice!, He declares. You can resign yourself to being controlled by the trouble of the world. You can resign yourself to being controlled by your own ineptness. Or, you *can* believe in God! (John 14:1).

And if you believe in God, you can also believe in Me, Jesus proclaimed (John 14:1). Just as you trust the Father to keep His promises, so you can trust Me

to keep My promises. Abraham *staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform* (Romans 4:20-21). Jesus declared to His disciples, you can have that same kind of trust in Me. Jesus was making a clear statement that He and His Father were one (John 10:30). And by saying that the same faith can be applied to both the Father and the Son, He was proclaiming His own deity. If Jesus is equally trustworthy with the Father, there is only one way that would be possible. They must be equally God. A few moments later, Jesus said this, *If ye had know me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him* (John 14:7). Philip wondered about that and asked, *Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us* (John 14:8). Jesus responded by saying, *Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father* (John 14:9) So, Jesus says, you can believe in me in exactly the same way you believe in God the Father because we share the same essence – We are God together!

3. Jesus made a promise.

Having invited them to place their trust in Him, Jesus makes a promise. *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you* (John 14:2). The word "place" refers to any portion or space marked off as it were from surrounding space. Jesus said He was going to make the necessary preparation so that each individual who believed in Him would have an inhabitable place marked off especially for them. This concept in the Greeks' thinking was drawn from the oriental custom of kings planning a journey and sending workers in advance to make preparations for the journey. Even today, if the President of the United States is going someplace, people are sent ahead to make all the necessary preparations for lodging, security, etc. Jesus said He was going away to prepare a mansion for each person. In modern day English, a mansion refers to a large imposing residence. In 1611, the word mansion referred to any place of residence, regardless of size. The size of the place Christ is preparing for us is not the issue. The important thing is that He is preparing a place for each one who believes in Him.

He assures us that in His Father's house, there are many places of residence available, sufficient in number for all who would believe. No one who

believes in Christ will be rejected because heaven has run out of room. That will never happen.

4. Jesus made a second promise.

Having assured the disciples that He was preparing a place for them in His Father's house, Jesus then made a second promise: *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also* (John 14:3). He tells them He is going away. The purpose for His going away is to prepare a place for them in His Father's house. But then, He says, He will return and take those who believe in Him to that place so that they may dwell with Him. Thus we are to understand that the place Jesus is preparing for those who believe in Him is "with Him."

It is a blessed thought. We who believe in Christ have a place. Jesus promised us a place in His Father's house. Our place is with Him. As 1 Thessalonians 4:17 says, *and so shall we ever be with the Lord*. Which would you rather think about – the trouble in this world? or our place with Jesus that He has prepared for us? It is our choice what we think about, but if we choose to think about the place Jesus has prepared for us, the trouble of this world will lose its ability to bother us.

Counting Slackness

To be objective means to express facts without distorting them with personal experiences, feelings, prejudices, or interpretations. To be subjective means to modify the way you express those same facts as having been influenced by personal experience, feelings, prejudices, or interpretations. An example of an objective expression would be, "These curtains are blue." A subjective statement on the same subject would be, "These curtains are pretty." No one can disagree with the fact that the curtains are blue. That is an objective fact. But there may be a disagreement as to whether or not they are pretty. That is a subjective opinion.

According to 2 Peter 3:9, some men count slackness in the Lord. Is that an objective fact or a subjective opinion? They claim it to be an objective statement, but upon closer examination, we will find that their objectivity has been subjectively influenced.

1. Counting Slackness

The word "slackness" in 2 Peter 3:9 means tardiness, slowness, or delay. 1 Timothy 3:15 uses the word to say, *But if I tarry long....* Someone might say, "I will meet you at a restaurant at 12:00 noon". So you arrive a little early, get a table, and wait. Soon it is ten after twelve. Then fifteen after, then twenty after, then it is twelve thirty, twelve forty five, and finally at twelve fifty they show up. They have been slack, or late in coming.

Counting is a word that refers to an objective observance of the facts. It means to think deliberately and carefully, with a due consideration, weighing and comparing facts. By contrast, Scripture uses the word "supposing," which is a subjective judgment that is based on feeling rather than thought. For example, in Philippians 1:16, *the one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds*.

Counting slackness would then appear to be an objective thing. Carefully considering all the facts, the logical conclusion would be that someone is irresponsibly late.

2. The Supposed Objective Accounting

Let us consider the facts. God made a promise (2 Peter 3:4). He promised to come. Yet, *since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation*. So, where is the promise of His coming? He is not here – He must be slack!

But is this conclusion truly objective? Their thinking has obviously been affected by their walk. According to verse 3, those who accused Christ of being slack had been walking after their own lusts. The result was they had become scoffers, or mockers. This led them to willingly ignore facts that were not convenient to their lusts. Verses 5-7 say, *For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: but the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men*. In other words, when they make their case for slackness in Christ, they claim that the world continues to day as it did from creation. By this they claim to show that Christ has not made any difference at all. But also by this they show their ignorance of the changes that

were made to the world in the flood of Noah's day. Thus while they claim to be objective, their conclusions are entirely subjective. To reach their desired conclusion, they had to ignore certain facts that would have led them to an altogether different result.

3. The Real Objective Accounting

The truth of history contrasts starkly with the account of the scoffers. They say all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation (verse 4). But the truth is that the world that then was perished, being overflowed with water (verses 5-6). And, the heavens and earth which are now are preserved in store unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men (verse 7).

The scoffers' perception was grossly inaccurate because they failed to take into consideration that God counts time differently than men do (verse 8). We count time in days and years. But to God, one day is the same as 1,000 years and 1,000 years is the same as one day. In other words, time is irrelevant to God. He does not measure His actions by time.

The scoffers' perception was also grossly inaccurate because they failed to take into account the nature of God. God's longsuffering motivates Him to deliberately delay His coming (verse 9). The Lord is not slack. The Lord is longsuffering. That is, He is not willing that any should perish. Rather, His desire is that all would come to repentance. So, He waits giving as many as possible the opportunity to repent.

The fact is, the day of the Lord will come. And it will come as a thief in the night (verse 10). And His coming will be followed by a judgmental global warming!

The fact is, this should affect the way we live (verse 11). Since all the things we have here are going to be dissolved, our priorities should be in holy conversation and godliness.

The fact is, we look for new heavens and a new earth (verse 12). Righteousness dwells in them, and if we expect to dwell in the new heavens and new earth as well, we ought to demonstrate our anticipation of such by living righteously now.

The fact is, this should affect our preparation for the judgment seat of Christ (verse 14). Since we

anticipate Christ's coming, we ought to be prepared for Him to find us living in peace, without spot, and blameless.

The fact is, the longsuffering of the Lord is necessary for the salvation of many (verse 15). The objective truth is this: God's delay caused by His longsuffering is not slackness, it is salvation as He gives men space to repent.

How do some men count slackness in the Lord? They pick and choose convenient "facts" to arrive at the conclusion they want. If God has not kept His promises on their time table, then to them, something must be wrong with God.

How do we count God's delay in coming? We measure God's delay in coming by His longsuffering. Everyday He delays, another person might join us in Christ. Everyday He delays, we might live a little more holy. Everyday He delays, we might be a little more ready for the judgment seat of Christ.

What will you do with the longsuffering of God? What will you do with the delay in His coming? Habakkuk 2:3 gives us good advice, *For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.*

Do You Appreciate the Promise?

God has made many promises to us. Among these are the promises regarding the rapture. He promised in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.* He also promised in 1 John 3:2, *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.* Finally, we turn to a promise He made in Revelation 22:7, 12, and 20: *Behold, I come quickly!*

The question is, do we really appreciate the significance of these promises? Are we really grateful for them so that we really do love the thought of Christ appearing?

1. The Promise

Revelation 22:20 says, *Surely I come quickly*. The word “surely” means simply “yes”. It is expressed in Matthew 15:27 as *truth Lord*, and in Mark 7:28 as *yes Lord*. The word quickly means “swiftly”. It does not mean “soon.” Rather, it means that when it happens it will happen fast. Thus, when Jesus says, *Surely, I come quickly*, He is saying, “This is a true statement: when I come, I will come very fast.”

2. Does the knowledge of the Lord’s coming compel you to worship Him?

The Apostle John must have been *overwhelmed* with all that he was shown in the visions of the book of Revelation. So much so, in fact, that he was moved to worship: *And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship* (Revelation 22:8). John worshiped because of what He had seen and heard. When he had heard all these marvelous truths and profound promises of God, his first impulse was to worship (verse 8).

What does it mean to worship? The wise men worshiped Jesus in Matthew 2:11 by falling down and presenting gifts to Him. The ladies who witnessed the empty tomb worshiped Jesus in Matthew 28:9 by holding Him by the feet. A visitor to a worship service in 1 Corinthians 14:25 worshiped God by falling down on his face. So in Revelation 22:8 we see John falling down at the feet of an angel to worship. Worship is apparently related to lowering ourselves so that we may acknowledge that the object of our worship is so much higher than we are. Of course, the object of our worship is also of paramount importance, and so when John fell down at the feet of the angel with the intent of worshiping the angel, the angel redirected John to the proper object of worship, God Himself.

By falling down before our object of worship, we are expressing our appreciation for, our faith in, and our trust in the one we are worshiping. Do we appreciate the promises of God so much that we are moved to worship Him as a result?

3. Does the knowledge of the Lord’s coming compel you to live righteously?

Jesus says he will be bringing a reward with him *to give every man according as his work shall be* (Revelation 22:12). What work warrants a reward? Verse 14 says, *Blessed are they that do his*

commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. Is He saying that we can earn our way into heaven? No! 1 John 3:23 tells us that God’s primary commandment is this: *That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ*. 1 John 5:1-5 explains that it is those who believe in Christ that truly love God. And to truly love God means we keep His commandments.

The believer, then, is to understand that the day of our accountability comes when we stand face to face with the Savior. As those who belong to Him, we will not face the prospect of condemnation when we face Him, but rather the gain or loss of reward. Knowing the day is fast approaching when Christ will return and receive us unto Himself should be enough to motivate us to faithfully keep His commandments, so that when we stand before Him, face to face, we will be able to add to His glory by presenting a testimony of faithfulness made possible by His grace.

4. Does the knowledge of the Lord’s coming compel you to want it to happen?

Christ declares in Revelation 22:20, *Surely I come quickly*. John immediately responds, *Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus*. The word “amen” originated in the Hebrew language, but it has been transliterated into most of the world’s other languages, making it a universal word. It means “verily, truly, of a truth.” Jesus said in John 3:3, *Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God*. By using the word “amen” or “verily” twice at the beginning of His statement, He was giving the greatest possible emphasis to the truthfulness of what He was saying. When we say “amen” at the end of someone’s prayer or song or sermon, we are declaring emphatically that we believe what was said to be absolutely true. For John to say “amen” to Christ’s promise that He would surely come quickly, he was emphatically proclaiming his confidence that Christ would keep His promise. The term “even so” is the same as the word “surely” in Revelation 22:20. “Yes,” he says, “I want this to happen!” “Come!” he says, “I want this to happen more than anything else.”

Conclusion

Among the things for which we ought to be thankful is the promise of Christ’s coming. But we should do more than just say “thank you.” We should be so overwhelmingly grateful for the promise of His coming that we worship God perpetually, expressing

our appreciation for His promise by adoring Him. We should be so overwhelmingly grateful for the promise of His coming that we faithfully obey His commandments, living righteously, showing our appreciation for His promise by forsaking the things He saved us from and doing the things He made possible. And, we should want it to happen. We should want Christ to come. We should not be content with having the promise of His coming as a future prospect only. We should desire it to happen now. We should long for it because we love it. We should love the promise that He is coming again to receive us unto Himself. We should love the moment that it will happen, so that we will live every day with a passionate anticipation – “Lord, may it be today! Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus.



ELDER NOTES

The Elders met October 25 and December 13. We have been reading through the book of Mark together and in our December meeting we read the last chapter. It has been encouraging to review together the events of Christ's life as recorded by John Mark. We spent our customary time in prayer for the needs of our church family and the agenda before us. In this time of prayer, each Elder takes a turn praying. All of the time we spend in the Word and prayer before we consider the business helps us to have the mind of Christ for all the decisions we have to make.

A Bible Conference has been scheduled for March 25-28 with Dr. Robert Congdon as speaker.

The Trustees and Elders together are investigating the possibility of making improvements to our sound system.

A contribution was made to Servant's Heart Camp to help with the construction of cabins. The money was taken from the Missions Project Fund established out of the Howard Estate Funds.

A new computer printer was approved for purchase out of reserve funds.

The Elders have decided to include Samuel and Nicole Moss as missionaries whom we will support financially. They are presently on full time deputation in preparation for full time missionary work in the country of Uganda. Their support will begin in January.


Pastor and Mrs. Moss are planning a missions trip to South Africa for the month of May. They will visit both the Kilmers and the Blackwells and participate with each of them in their ministries.

The adult choir and Saturday men's Bible studies will be put on hold for now. We will seek the Lord's wisdom regarding when these activities will resume.

The annual congregation meeting was set for Sunday January 22. The snow date will be January 29.

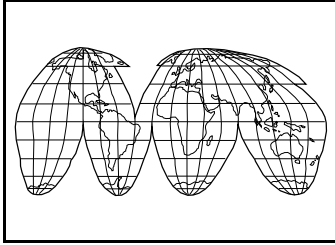
The Trustees and Elders have prepared a budget for 2012. The new budget will be slightly less than the 2011 budget. The 2011 budget totaled \$167,564.00. The 2012 budget totals \$166,929.00. The budget and financial reports will be available at least two weeks before the annual meeting.

Elder Greg Beard's three year term of office expires this year. We have asked him to be considered for another term and he has consented. We will present his name for approval at the annual meeting.

God has richly blessed us in many ways as a local church this past year. We rejoice together in all of His goodness to us. 



Missionary News



**From
Around
The World
and
Here at Home**

Don & Karen Kilmer

To the Zulus in South Africa

One ministry God has opened is preaching at public schools. The public schools here have a 10 or 15 minute opening assembly at the beginning of each day. Some of the schools allow me to preach. A few weeks ago I preached to 900 students at the high school and also to 850 students at the primary school (for those of you in America that is an elementary school).

After preaching at the primary school, the principal, Mr. B. asked if I could come to his office and have prayer with him. He explained that for the last three years a hit man has been after him. Sometimes the hit man drives past his house or past the school or passes him along the road. God has always protected him, but he knows the importance of prayer and God's help.

I told him I am glad God has protected him, but if he should die would he be ready to meet God? He said he was as he had received Jesus as his Savior. Then he added that he was about 65% ready to meet God. I had the privilege of showing him from God's Word that he can be 100% sure if he truly believes and accepts Jesus as his Savior. He said he had truly accepted Jesus but is not perfect. I then explained to him how to confess his sin as a child of God (1 John 1:9). This is an issue that many people here do not understand.

Zulu witch doctor hears the Gospel: Each week, I go visiting in Embo and also go to a taxi stop, hospital, clinic or some place where people gather. A few weeks ago due to a very busy week, I didn't get a chance to go to one of the other places, although I did go visiting in the tribal area of Embo. However, on the way home from a Bible study I passed a place where an herbalist witch doctor parks his car and sells traditional medicine. As I passed

the spot, the Holy Spirit urged me to stop and talk to him, especially since I hadn't gotten to town to witness as normal.

I must be honest. I wasn't too excited about the idea, thinking there might be an ugly confrontation. However, the Lord reminded me that even witch doctors need to hear the gospel. I turned my car around and with a trembling heart prayed, asking God for strength and wisdom. You may think, "But haven't you witnessed to witch doctors before?" Yes, but I usually meet these as I am out on the paths and streets or as I am going door to door. I rarely seek them out specifically.

After parking next to his car, I realized I needed some weapons. I took my sword, which is my Bible, and my pen knife, which is a gospel tract. We greeted, and I told him I didn't want to buy anything but would like him to read a pamphlet. This particular tract is titled, "What will happen after death?" As I handed it to him I asked him that very question. I expected some story about how his dead ancestor would help him. However, he admitted he didn't know and would read the tract.

I told him this was an important issue because after death it is too late to prepare to meet God. I explained sin, righteousness, and judgment and that only Jesus can cleanse us from sin. He listened attentively and promised to read the tract. I left rejoicing that God had opened this door and given me the strength to walk through it.

Please pray for the witch doctor to be saved. Please pray for protection for Mr. B. Please pray we will have strength and wisdom as we preach and teach the Word of God.

Roger & Nola Perrott

Hong Kong

We are excited to have a new missionary come to join our work in Hong Kong. The Conrad family arrived and we look forward to working many years together with them in winning and discipling Chinese people for the Lord.

Continue to pray for C. and his wife. They come every Sunday. C. has started sitting in for the adult Sunday School Bible study the past few weeks. Before that, he was diligent in avoiding listening. He has started to feel comfortable with us. He still does not stay to listen in church to the sermons. Pray that

the Lord will get through to him.

We are pleased with how the church services are going, with a local lady teaching a Sunday School class. Pray that our people will be faithful. I am preaching about issues the modern church faces and needs answers to, like evolution, drinking, etc. Pray that the believers will be securely founded. Please pray especially that God will convict men of their need for Christ. I try to arrange to see men at their lunch breaks and talk to them of their need of the Lord. We desire so much that the Lord would raise up a local Chinese man who wants to go into the ministry work with us in our church - perhaps a student in our Bible institute, because I feel some of them have real potential. Pray that the Lord would stir some of them up.

We had the best teen youth club we have ever had a few weeks ago. It was a good time and I feel everyone understood the message well. The Lord has to break through to their hearts. They have heard the gospel many times. Recently I am using Christ's parables to help them see the truth. Some of the boys have dropped out for a few months now. Pray that we can get them back. One special thing that is a possibility for the youth is that we could start arranging a yearly week of camp for youth. Pray for wisdom as we discuss this possibility with some who would come and help us.

Over the next few months I ask that you fervently pray that God would save many souls. I am rearranging my schedule, so I can go out sharing the gospel one-to-one every day. I ask that you pray God will use me and give me wisdom, and that the many contacts I have in our village will be softened toward the gospel message. I have been sharing the gospel, but I want to increase it exponentially if I can.

Homeschooling is hard to keep up with this year. Grandpa is a little less aware of things and so requires more care. Pray especially that he will not be so aggressive. Pray for Jonathan at Bob Jones University. He is doing well, but very busy. Pray that he will stay healthy as he often stays up late at night to study.

~~~~~

**BE YE FISHERS OF MEN.**

**YOU CATCH 'EM -**

**HE'LL CLEAN 'EM.**

## Peter & Rosa Pingol

Spain

As an important part of our ministry we wanted to use the written page. Through articles, tracts, magazines, and books we have been reaching many of our friends and neighbors. When we started the church at Castellbisbal we used the name of "Castell i Baluard" for our written church bulletin. "Castell i Baluard" (Castle and Stronghold - Psalm 18:2) has become the name for our publishing ministry. We have already printed two books, *Katharland* and *El Estandarte Cataro*. I have received from the printing press a third book *Compendio de Amor*. This book is going to be used as an evangelistic tool. It was written by one member of our congregation and it is a recompilation of poems he wrote. These poems talk about God, life and family.

As the Lord provides, we would like to publish two more books that are right now inside my computer and that we would love to publish. One is dealing with the history of the Christians in Spain, *Paleocristianismo en Espana*, the other book deals with the Bible principles of music and is called *La Excelencia en la Musica Cristiana*. We pray that these books will be a blessing for the ministry. We will be selling *Compendio de Amor* for only five euros. We would like to recuperate some of the expenses of publication in order to keep on publishing more books.

I traveled for two weeks of conferences in ministry in the precious country of Peru. My first week I preached in a Family Conference, the second week in a conference for Christian workers and pastors. I preached as well at a 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, and several sermons to a youth group, and had a meeting with a group of managers. I spoke in the opening of a Christian School, and talked to several teachers of Bible Institutes. I also met with a police captain and army officer. On my return trip I went through Atlanta and spent ten hours there with a precious friend. Please continue praying for us and for the work of the Lord... we are co-workers in the service to our God.

## Roberto & Imee Livioco

Philippines

Our seven weeks in the U.S. turned out as an itinerant ministry for us. How refreshing it was to have met our old acquaintances, and connect with new brethren who also love the Lord and delight in His Word! We were especially excited to be reunited with our eldest daughter, Debbie (who is currently working on the East coast), and have her join us for two Sundays to minister in churches! She also gave us a memorable treat to enjoy the beauty of God's creation found at Niagara Falls. What a blessing!

Upon arriving in Manila, we immediately attended to the preparations for our regular Sunday services. Then we had the Annual Bible Conference the following Tuesday until Friday. This years theme, "Loving the New Testament Local Church", was gleaned from our theme verse, "...know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth," 1 Timothy 3:15. The good turn out of delegates, the warm display of Christian fellowship, and the week long sunny weather were all contributing factors that made this event a great blessing.

After conference week, FBC had her first mission trip to Mindanao. It was an eye-opener for our music and missions team. We now have a better appreciation for the sacrifices missionaries have had to make in order to reach people in the mountains of Bukidnon. It was an exhausting few weeks but very spiritually refreshing seeing souls saved and Christians edified, but the joy of the Lord is our strength. We were able to minister to 15 churches mostly in the mountains. We had to cross rivers, hike, and had bumpy rides in trucks to go to most of these churches. We even had to walk under the rain through the dark with our team carrying their instruments. But what a blessing to hear the missions team share their experiences and blessings with the church brethren the following Sunday. Thanks to God for the privilege to serve Him. All the hard work paid off because it was done for the glory of God, for the edification of the brethren, and for the advancement of the cause of Christ.

## Earl Knuth

EICM - A Church Helps Ministry

I began working with EICM in 1995. In the years that followed, I served as an Associate Missionary, traveling to various churches to speak. In recent years I have been appointed to the Board of Directors and serve as secretary on both the Board and the Executive Committee. In addition to speaking when needed, I am presently leading the services at Lancaster City Ministries.

## Christmas Activities

Please see pictures of our church activities on our website at [www.northhillsbiblechurch.org](http://www.northhillsbiblechurch.org) and click on the "Resources" link and find "Current Issue".

The homeschoolers had the privilege to visit and sing Christmas carols to Glenda Hamme and then to Ivy Pyle and her Bible study group.

The Senior Citizens went on the Hans Herr House Christmas Candlelight Tour and experienced holiday customs from some of the earliest ethnic groups who settled in Lancaster County. Costumed guides demonstrated blacksmithing and other traditional crafts around the grounds. The tour ended with hot cider and caroling around a bonfire.

Our church Christmas banquet was well attended and our many thanks go to Cindy Smith for heading up the meal and decorations, both of which were lovely. The speaker was Shawn Madrid who challenged us to not take the true meaning of Christmas for granted, but to recognize the baby in the manger as the One who came to give His life for our sin.

Our children and adult Christmas programs were a blessing, as always, with many visitors attending.



## Preschoolers

*taught by Mrs. Moss*

Naturally through December our stories centered around the birth of Christ. We learned how God sent an angel to Mary and Joseph, their journey to Bethlehem, Jesus birth, and the visit from the shepherds and wisemen.

After practicing for the Christmas program we did some crafts. One was a winter craft and one was a creation craft. We will be starting a series on creation as we get into the new year. Each of the children got some seeds started, and we will watch God make them grow as we study creation.

Our memory work this past quarter was the 10 Commandments which the children recited during the Christmas program. They are now starting to learn the Wordless Book colors, what each page means and a verse for each.

## PRIMARIES

*taught by Mr. and Mrs. Smith*

Jesus came to John the Baptist and was baptized. He set an example for believers. Jesus was ready to begin his ministry. After having endured Satan's temptations in the wilderness, Jesus met again with John the Baptist. After that, he began to gather his disciples. We talked about what the children want to be when they grow up. They all had many and varied ideas. This was an opportunity to express the need to be a follower of Jesus even now as a young person. We also said to them when asked what they want to be when they grow up, they should desire to be a man or women of God in whatever thing God calls them to do.

## Juniors

*taught by Mr. and Mrs. Cook*

One of our favorite recent lessons from the book of Acts was when Peter was put into jail, and God sent an angel to release him. We laughed when the angel had to wake him up with an angelic "touch" and when Peter thought he was dreaming. We also laughed at the scene of Peter continuing to knock at the door, while Rhoda tried to convince the praying Christians that God had answered their prayers. Isn't that so much like us? We need to pray with faith that God will answer as He knows best. Now we will be focusing our lessons on Paul and his missionary journeys.

The following students memorized Philippians 4:4-13: Allyson Knuth, Carleigh Moss, Caleb Fetrow, Charles Balcom, Jonathan Kanost and Tyler Knuth. Next we will be memorizing Romans 12.

## Master Clubs

Director - Nathaniel Wertz

Our class has been learning about several of the stories in the Bible and how they relate to our lives.

We looked at the story of Ruth and saw how we are to be an example to others and be kind and helpful. Then we learned of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, how they stood against the cultural problems and sins of the Babylonians, and how they were even willing to face the fiery furnace for their faith in God.

In December we looked at the Christmas story, straight from God's Word. The children got to draw each part of the story as we learned about it.

It has been a great privilege to see these young hearts begin to understand how they can please and praise their God and Savior Jesus Christ.

(By: Nathanael Moss, teacher for 1st-3rd graders)



## Quizzing

by Quiz Coach, Mrs. Moss

It has been an interesting year with quiz practice every Wednesday night on the book of I John. The competition to see who can stay at the top of the class in answering questions correctly has gotten lively at times.

The second Sunday in January the teens will be doing a quiz demonstration for the congregation in church on Sunday night at 6:30. Hopefully this will get the jitters out, with quizzing in front of an audience before they start the real competition on the last Sunday of January. They will have another competition with other churches the last Sunday of February and March also.

We have been trying to apply our key verse for the year to our lives. I John 2:28 says, "And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming." We want to live our lives in a way that is pleasing to Him at all times so that whenever He comes we will not be ashamed.

## HOMESCHOOL NEWS

Led by Dawn Balcom

The K- 2nd grade class and 3rd - 6th grade focused on the 3rd day of creation/ plants, air and soil. The K-2nd grade tasted sweet potatoes and carrots blind folded while holding their noses to see if they could tell the difference. The students were able to tell the difference by texture but not taste. They also made owl puppets with leaf wings.

The 3rd-6th grade performed an experiment determining the solubility of three white substances. The students also determined the hardness of various rocks using the hardness scale.

Both classes made Christmas cards for various people in the church.

### Teen Boys Woodworking Project

They learned to read the drawings for the wall shelf they were going to build.

Andrew made a rough drawing of his shelf. He laid out the shape on the pine boards and sawed them out with a saber saw. He cut contours on the edges with a router on the router table. He sanded the parts and prepared for assembly.

Austin and Henry laid out and cut their parts to size using a saber saw. They laid out and drilled holes for screws on the drill press. They cut contours on some of their parts with a router. They sanded the parts preparing them for assembly.

Carlton decided to make a model of a P-51 Mustang WW2 fighter plane. He laid out the shape of the fuselage, wing and tail. He cut them out on the scroll saw. He machined the edges on the router table. He sanded the parts in preparation for assembly and paint.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

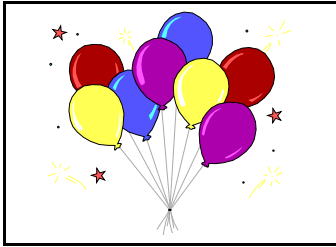
### January

|    |                              |           |
|----|------------------------------|-----------|
| 1  | Teen Quizzing Demonstration  | 6:30 PM   |
| 8  | Pleasant Acres Service       | 1:45 PM   |
| 12 | Homeschool Classes           | 9-12 AM   |
| 14 | Teen Activity                | 4:30-9:30 |
| 16 | Rescue Mission Service       | 8:00 PM   |
| 17 | Trustee Meeting              | 6:30 PM   |
| 18 | TAP Ministry                 | 8:00 AM   |
| 22 | Congregational Meeting       | 12:15 PM  |
| 26 | Homeschoolers Roller Skating |           |
| 29 | Bible Quizzing Competition   | 2-4 PM    |

### February

|    |                                         |           |
|----|-----------------------------------------|-----------|
| 9  | Homeschool Classes                      | 9-12 AM   |
| 11 | Teen Activity                           | 4-8:30 PM |
| 15 | TAP Ministry                            | 8:00 AM   |
| 19 | Manor Care Service                      | 1:30 PM   |
| 21 | Trustee Meeting                         | 6:30 PM   |
| 23 | Homeschoolers Field Trip to Turkey Hill |           |
| 25 | Ladies Missionary Project               | 10:00 AM  |
| 26 | Bible Quizzing Competition              | 2-4 PM    |

## Church Family News



### Happy Birthday

#### January

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

#### February

- 4 - **Joy Baker**
- 4 - Matthew Krape
- 5 - **Andrew Perrott**
- 5 - Tanisha Smith
- 6 - Paul Grove
- 7 - Pat Rudisill
- 9 - Earl Morrow
- 13 - Joan Fink
- 13 - Vernon Shields
- 15 - Jacob Frey
- 15 - Glenda Hamme
- 15 - Nathaniel Wertz
- 27 - Beverly Miller



### Happy Anniversary

#### January

- 11 - Greg & Shirley Beard

#### February

- 3 - **Marc & Judi Blackwell**
- 12 - Ervin & Sue Kornbau
- 16 - Gene & Sherry Beam

#### 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.



Please see pictures of our church activities on our website at [www.northhillsbiblechurch.org](http://www.northhillsbiblechurch.org) and click on the "Resources" link and find "Current Issue".



Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Dorothy Moore in her passing on November 14, 2011.

Our deep sympathy goes to Pat Rudisill in the passing of her husband, Howard, on December 5, 2011.

## New Church Directory

In order to keep up with address changes and other information that has changed over the year we have printed a new Church Directory. You may pick one up in the narthex for your personal use.

**2012 Pocket Calendars  
Are Available In The Narthex**

## Remember Our Shut-ins



Lorraine Beath, Jean Beck, Bessie Boyer, Jeanie Geesey, Pam Grove, Gloria Hevner, Ethel Leib, Harriet Moyer, Ivy Pyle, Sara Sipe, Marian Tawney, Hilda Wallace, Elmira Wise.

# Senior Citizens Outing to the Hans Herr House Candlelight Christmas Tour



Learning how they preserved things in the cellar.



Cooking over an open fire in the kitchen.



Up in the attic where the children slept, learning about home remedies for health issues.



Singing Christmas Carols by candlelight.



Visiting the blacksmith shop.

# Master Clubs Make Human Christmas Trees Out of Their Leaders During Game Time



Putting the red streamers on.



Adding the green garland.



And of course a "star" on top!



What good sports :-)

# Homeschool Support Group



Middle group doing their science projects.



Teen boys doing their woodworking projects.



# Christmas Caroling



To Ivy Pyle and her Bible study group.



To Glenda Hamme.