



MAY 2008 NEWSLETTER

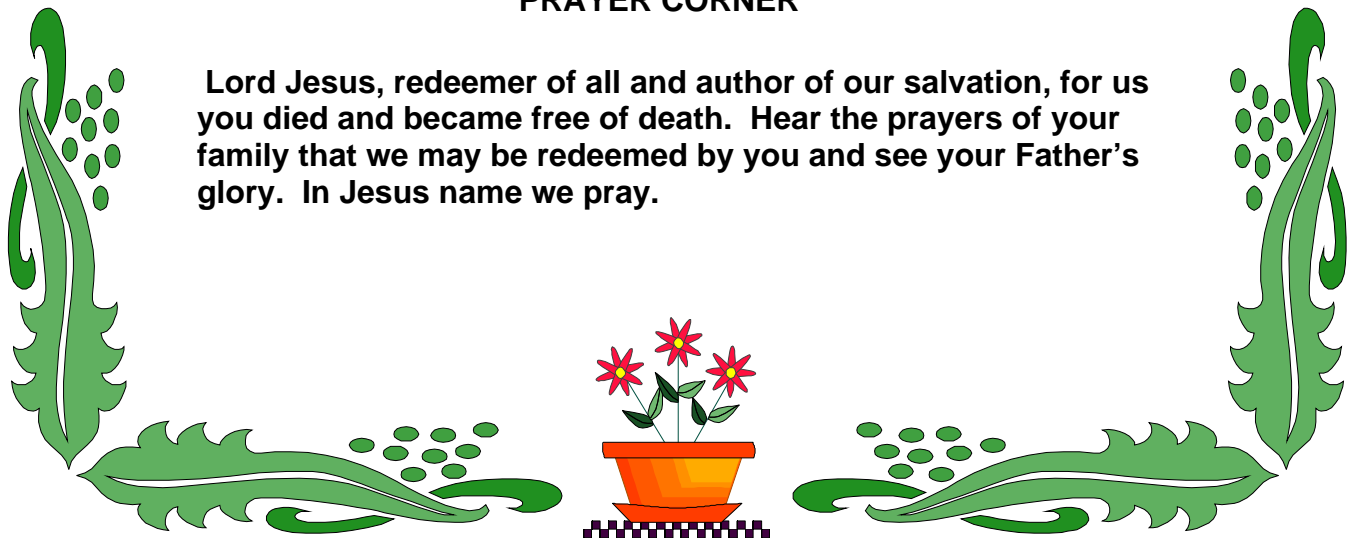
FROM "PENTECOST TODAY"

Every salesman knows you never mention the negatives of a product you're trying to sell. Imagine how few swimming pools would be sold if salesmen were honest about the cost and expense of maintaining a healthy pool. The modern Gospel evolved naturally from **"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me"** Matt 16:24, to get your free "get out of Hell" card.

Evangelism is a two-edged sword. On one side of the sword we have the Bible truths that God draws the sinner, God illuminates the sinner, and God gives the sinner the faith to be saved. On the other side of the sword we have the Bible truths that God uses Christians to preach the Gospel to Sinners so they can repent as God gives them the grace. Illumination of the sinner comes through understanding the Gospel. God has appointed Christians to be agents through which the Gospel is preached.

PRAYER CORNER

Lord Jesus, redeemer of all and author of our salvation, for us you died and became free of death. Hear the prayers of your family that we may be redeemed by you and see your Father's glory. In Jesus name we pray.



Finance

April Offering (General Offering):

- April 6: \$2346.00
- April 13: \$2685.40
- April 20: \$2858.00
- April 27: \$2252.43

Average per week, year-to-date: \$2710.28

Weekly amount required to meet budget: \$3247.11

April Council Meeting

There was a Council meeting on Thursday, April 3. Here are some key items from the discussion:

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor Bruce continues emphasis on prayer and also on answers to prayer. Reigndown USA is coming up on April 26 – emphasis on repentance. National Day of Prayer is on May 1. World Day of Prayer is May 12.
- He desires for us to increase efforts in getting to know new-comers.

Communications Commission:

- The emergency phone list has been updated and is in place. The updated church directory should be ready soon.

Worship Commission:

- Sheryle Hazard has stepped down from Commission Chair role.
- We are still looking for a Music & Worship Leader, or possibly an Accompanist.
- Sheryle will be out of town on weekends May through September, so we will need someone to accompany during each of those weekends until either we find a permanent Worship Leader / Accompanist, or Sheryle returns in the Fall.

Diaconate:

- Don and Phyllis Anderson will be attending the Northwest Conference meeting.
- Consensus has not been reached yet regarding proceeding with a Pastoral Search committee.

General:

- Thom Black will serve as guest speaker on April 13.
- The last day of Sunday School will be May 18.
- The next Council meeting will be May 8, since May 1 is the National Day of Prayer.

HEADS UP – SUMMER SCHEDULE

The summer **10:00** worship schedule will begin May 25.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEALS FOR YOUNG LIVES

Bethany is signed up to provide and serve meals for YoungLives which is an outreach of Young Life for teen moms. Meals need only be basic and ample for these young moms, many of whom seldom enjoy a family style meal. We would provide the main course, side dishes, dessert and beverage; serve the meal; and clean up.

This would be a wonderful outreach for families, friends or any group. This program meets at the Young Life house adjacent to our own parking lot. We are signed up to do the meals on Mondays, May 19, and June 30. If you would like to provide and serve a meal for this ministry or have any questions, please contact Pam Wells (439-2084). By the way, the children are absolutely adorable.

THANK YOU SHERYL

Sheryl has resigned from her worship leader position. She has devoted many hours to enhance our worship services, and we thank her!

THANK YOU YOUTH GROUP

Angela Daniels sends a huge thank you to the youth group! They showed up like knights in shining armor on white horses to help unload her truck on moving day. What took her all day to pack took them about ½ to unload!! Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!!

ATTENTION LADIES

BETHANY LADIES! IF YOU WEREN'T IN CHURCH SUNDAY TO SEE THE BULLETIN... ARNFELT SHOWER UPDATE AND LUNCHEON SPEAKER UPDATE --

LADIE'S LUNCHEON SPEAKER UPDATE! Please read this addition info. on our fantastic speaker!

You are invited to come to the women's luncheon, "China Garden" which will be held on May 10 at 11:30 a.m. (table will be set with china)

This will be a gala affair with a sumptuous lunch catered by Lisa Lindberg Stanger. Our speaker is Tiffany Felty. Tiffany is the wife of Aaron Felty, the youth pastor at Plymouth Covenant Church. Much of her time is spent raising and home schooling her "fabulous five," she does have time to lead worship for the children at her

church, lead a small group in Women's Bible study, and share her passion for Jesus at various speaking engagements. Much of Tiffany's ministry has arisen from her travel experiences as an "Army brat," her own experience as a youth

pastor for 2 years and a wife of a youth pastor for 10 and finally from her own relationship with a Jewish Christian named Warren who taught her the amazingly rich heritage we have in our Jewish Messiah. Though she has a degree in Religion and Philosophy, it is the Holy Spirit and God's amazing grace which has provided her with this new ministry of "Savoring the Savior." May God be glorified as His people are satisfied.

At the luncheon, Tiffany will be giving a talk called, "Winter Has Passed and Spring Has Come: Answering the Saviors Call to Come Away With Him." The talk is based upon a passage found in Song of Solomon 2:8-17. She will lead in a time of worship as well as a time of sharing, so come prepared. Several of our ladies heard Tiffany at the Covenant Pines fall retreat last year. She is both humble, and anointed! **Bring family and friends! Invite another gal from Bethany! All are welcome! The cost for the luncheon is \$10.00. Sign up will be on Sundays, April 27 and May 4. It promises to be a memorable event. See you there!!!.**

MICHELLE ARNFELT BRIDAL SHOWER UPDATE! Next Sunday, May 3rd at 3 pm – after the potluck!
Michelle is registered at **Bed Bath and Beyond, and Crate & Barrel**

UPDATE AND REQUEST

Update from Julie Diercks

Julie shares the incredible places that God has taken her in a letter we received in Mid April. (Letter is on the bulletin board by the door).

Julie has a desire and opportunity to go to Unalakleet, Alaska for 4 weeks.

Unalakleet has no indoor plumbing or electricity, (Peggy and Gene forgot to tell Julie that those 2 items don't mean opportunity!).

Julie is asking for our prayers for safe transportation and that God's Spirit would be alive throughout the camp.

Julie also needs \$1,200.00 (discount for no lights or water). Anyone touched by God to help her may give their donation to Phyllis Anderson.

Thank you in advance, Julie

UPDATE FROM JESSIE DEWOLF

Dear Friends and Family,

Thank you so much for supporting me in your prayers and also for contributing financially towards the missions trip I recently went on. It will be very hard to put my experience into words. In fact, I know that nothing I write will be able to properly convey what I saw and experienced physically and spiritually.

I guess I would begin by telling the shock that it was for me when we crossed the border. It was like two different worlds. On one side of the fence were big hotels and everything we're used to seeing every day, and, literally, just past the fence was a different world! It was almost too much to take in. Poverty was everywhere. I could have one foot in the U.S. and the other in Mexico and just look down this imaginary line and see two places that look like they should be on opposite sides of the world. It really struck me as to why we are so different.

My team of 18 stayed on the property of a missionary couple on the outskirts of Ensenada, Mexico. It is an extremely poor area and most of the villagers have no electricity or running water. Before the missionaries came to this area, there was no church. They built a small one-room church two years ago, with nothing in it but folding chairs. Since then, it has grown to roughly 50 people.

Our group was split up into three teams. Two teams were assigned to help build a place to stay for people that come to help the missionaries. One team mixed and laid cement outside, and the other sanded and painted walls inside. We learned to work together as a team while preparing cement that would build the foundations of a building that would help build the foundations of Christianity in the hearts and lives of the locals. Each day we worked from 8:30 till 5. I did both concrete work and helped with the children. While learning about the power of prayer and the power of relationships, our group became a team; a team that was willing and prepared to do anything that was asked

The third team provided Vacation Bible School for local children. To invite the children, we walked the streets of the village announcing what time VBS would begin. We were never sure how many would show up from day to day. One day we had 20 and another day we had 60. Each day had a different theme. We translated a Bible story to go along with the theme and also had crafts for them to make.

The children had basically nothing. Most of them were dirty and sick and had no material possessions. It was very difficult to see. Despite all of this, they were extremely happy. When the children ran up to us with arms wide open, ready for a hug, we learned of the joy that these children had in Christ through us while they had so few physical possessions. Again, this is a part of the trip that is very difficult for me to write about as it's hard to put into words what I experienced with those children. I guess I can say that when I left them, I left a part of me behind, and not a day goes by that they aren't on my heart and mind and in my prayers.

We attended one evening church service with about 45 locals attending. There were no musical instruments but a few tambourines, and no one led the singing. Everyone just started singing whenever they wanted! By American standards, the sounds coming from that church weren't very pretty! They were all singing off key and off beat! We tried singing with them for awhile, and then I stopped

singing and began listening and watching them. I looked around then just closed my eyes and listened. It sounded so beautiful to me! They sang with such joy and passion and they weren't self conscious at all, like Americans can be. They were just happy to be worshipping together and were so thankful to have a church to come to. I'll never forget that.

This mission's trip opened my eyes in so many ways. We learned that language is not a hindrance to us when our primary mission is to show Christ's love for His people. I learned that we cannot rely on our own strength to get through things but only on God's. I know that God hand picked each and every person to go on this specific trip for a reason and that He uses us in our own special ways to get His mission accomplished. I also learned more about how powerful prayer is and how faithful God is to answer. There was a point on this trip where God showed us His power through healing. It was a really amazing thing to witness. I really felt people lifting me up in their prayers throughout this trip. I mean that! So thanks again for all who did.

Thank you so much, again, for sharing in this missions trip. By your financial and/or prayers, all of you really came along with me and shared in this ministry, and I know the Lord will bless you for it!
Jessie DeWolf

IN THE NEWS-ISRAEL

ISRAEL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY THIS MONTH

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. May those who love you be secure." Ps. 122:6

The 60th anniversary of Israel's independence will be celebrated on May 8th (the 5th of Iyar on the Jewish calendar). In 1948 the 5th of Iyar fell on May 14th, and that was the momentous day when David Ben Gurion read the Israeli Declaration of Independence at a small museum in Tel Aviv. Only one photographer was present.

The first nation to recognize the new state was the U.S. President Truman issued the recognition statement only 11 minutes after the declaration went into effect.

The Hebrew prophets were given many prophecies concerning the Jewish people. It was prophesied that their disobedience would lead to their worldwide dispersion from their homeland of Israel and that they would be persecuted wherever they went. (Deut. 28:58-67) But the Lord promised that a remnant would be preserved (Jer. 30:11) and that one day they would be regathered in unbelief to their homeland (Is. 66:7,8).

The dispersion of the Jews began in 70 AD when the Romans put down the First Jewish Revolt. After the Second Revolt in AD 132-135, the Romans accelerated their dispersion of the Jews. By that time they were so disgusted with the stubbornness of the Jews that they decided to further humiliate them by changing the name of their homeland from

Israel to Palestine. In other words, they renamed the land in honor of the age-old enemies of the Jews – the Philistines. Everywhere the Jews roamed for the next 1,800 years, they were persecuted, just as prophesied. But, amazingly, they kept their identity, unlike any other nation that had become so scattered. To this day their ancient language of Hebrew is preserved.

In the late 19th century, God raised up a visionary by the name of Theodore Herzl. He was a Hungarian Jew who lived in Vienna. In 1896 he published a booklet in which he called for the Jewish people to return to their homeland. The booklet sparked the imagination of the Jewish people worldwide and led to the First Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland in 1897. After this historic assembly had adjourned, Herzl wrote in his diary these prophetic words:

At Basel I founded the Jewish State. If I said this out loud today, I would be greeted by universal laughter. In five years, perhaps, and certainly in 50 years, everyone will perceive it.

Well, Theodore, we perceive it!!

We will close here, but if you want to continue to read this fascinating history, use the link below to access the March/April “Lamplighter” magazine. Scroll down to the picture of “The Lamplighter” (It is blue with Israel’s flags on the cover) and download the rest of this story. **It is absolutely incredible to read about the people God used to bring this about, including an old friend of President Truman’s who was Jewish store owner. Praise to Almighty God who raises up men and women to bring about His purposes and the fulfillment of prophecy!** Please finish reading the amazing history of this...

<http://community.icontact.com/p/lamblion/newsletters/pna/posts/lamb-lion-ministries-israels-60th-anniversary>

The re-establishment of the state of Israel fulfilled several prophecies in the Hebrew Scriptures. One of those, contained in [Joel 2:18-29](#) states that once the Jewish people have returned to their land, God will begin the great end time outpouring of His Spirit that is promised several places in the Bible. We are, indeed, living in an incredible time of the world’s history!! *“Pour out Your Spirit, O Lord!”*

We, at Bethany will celebrate Israel’s birthday on June 1st in our morning worship!

AS PROMISED THE RECIPIE OF THE MONTH

(please note if you would like to print this recipe you may print page 8)

RECIPIE OF THE MONTH- SERVED AT CRAFT/QUILT DAY

Carol's Creamy Chunky Chicken Soup

1 lb chicken boneless breasts, cubed
1 c white wine
4 T (1/2 stick) butter
2 carrots, peeled & diced
2 celery ribs, diced
1 med. onion, peeled & chopped
1 garlic clove, minced
1/2 t basil
1 bay leaf
1/2 c flour
6 c chicken stock
3 med. potatoes, peeled & sliced
1 c heavy cream
2 t salt
1/4 t pepper
2 T parsley

Melt butter in a heavy med. pot and sauté onions, garlic, carrots and celery until onions are clear. Add basil and bay leaf and cook for 1 min. Stir in flour and toast for 1 min. Add broth and wine. Stirring constantly, bring to a boil. Add potatoes and chicken; when simmer returns, lower the heat and simmer, stirring frequently until potatoes are very tender and chicken is no longer pink, about 30 minutes. Stir in salt and pepper, simmering for 5 minutes more. Add cream and parsley right before end of cooking; do not boil because cream may curdle. Bring soup back to hot temp, if necessary, and then serve. Remember to remove the bay leaf!

This is delicious, thank you Carol!!!

Happy May!!!

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Daniels

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