

REFLECTIONS

The Monthly Newsletter of Grace OPC

THE MISSION OF JESUS' CHURCH

By Pastor Brian De Jong

What on earth are we to do as Christians? Why have we been put on this planet — so full of disappointment and difficulty? What is our purpose? The answers to these questions are of primary importance if we are to have any hope of accomplishing our mission.

The Westminster Assembly saw this as a fundamental issue and addressed it in the first question and answer of the Shorter Catechism.

“What is the chief end of man? Man’s chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.”

In other words, “Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” Our whole existence is to be focused on this one great goal — to bring honor, glory and praise to our Maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend.

In glorifying Him, we will begin to accomplish the second aspect of our chief end — to enjoy Him forever. In God’s presence is fullness of joy. Jesus told his disciples in John 15:11 that “*These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.*” The Savior reiterated this desire in His High Priestly prayer in John 17, when he prayed, “*These things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy made full in themselves.*” So as we hear, understand, digest, and obey the truth of God’s word, and the glorious gospel contained therein, Jesus’ joy is in us, and His joy begins to permeate our minds,

hearts, and lives. In other words, as He enjoys us, we will enjoy Him more and more as we draw nearer to our eternal home.

This is not the entire extent of our mission, though. As we glorify God and begin enjoying Him, we must urge others to join our happy throng.



Paul certain understood this. He told the Romans that “*through Jesus Christ our Lord we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among the Gentiles, for His name’s sake.*” As

Paul saw it, he was saved by God’s grace and appointed as an apostle for a purpose — to bring about the obedience of faith among the Gentiles. He had been set apart in order to bring the good news to the Gentile world. In making the nations into Christ’s disciples, he would baptize them and teach them to obey whatsoever Christ commanded.

Although we are not apostles, the same mandate lies before us today. God has saved us in His grace. We now need to go forth, making the nations into Jesus’ disciples. Whether in our Jerusalem, in our Judea, in our Samaria or to the ends of the earth, we must be His witnesses, proclaiming a resurrected and reigning Christ as Lord. And in this holy enterprise, God will receive glory, and we will find great joy!

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August 2007

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A Blessing to the World

By R. B. Kuiper

That the church of Jesus Christ is an inestimable blessing to humanity, including those who are hostile to God and to the cause of Christ, is beyond question.

To enumerate all the blessings that accrue to the world from the presence of the church in its midst would, no doubt, prove impossible. They are countless. However, a great many of them may be subsumed under two sayings of the Lord Jesus. Said He to His disciples: "Ye are the salt of the earth" and "Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:13, 14).

THE SALT OF THE EARTH

A certain preacher announced as his text: "Ye are the salt of the earth." Having done that, he said in effect: "When salt gets into an open wound, it bites; so we Christians must go through life biting." It hardly needs to be said that he was engaging in eisegesis rather than exegesis. To be sure, the truth of God, which Christians must proclaim, often hurts; but Scripture tells us that we are to love all men and, if it be possible, as much as lies in us, to live peaceably with all men (Romans 12:18).

In what sense, then, are believers the salt of the earth? The answer lies at hand. From time immemorial salt has been used the world over to season food and to prevent putrefaction. In those respects the people of God resemble salt. If it were not for them, the holy God would long ago have spewed this insipid world out of His mouth and in fiery indignation have consigned this putrid world to destruction.

An Old Testament story illustrates that truth strikingly. The Lord had come to annihilate Sodom because of the extreme wickedness of its populace. However, Abraham, with whom God had recently established His covenant of grace, offered an intercessory prayer for the doomed city. In so doing he was acting as a pre-

servative. By way of answer God promised to spare the city if fifty righteous men should be found in its midst. In response to His friend's importunate pleading God reduced that number, first to forty-five, then to forty, then to thirty, then to twenty, and finally to ten. Said He: "I will not destroy the city for ten's sake." If there had been but ten righteous persons in Sodom, the whole city would have been spared because of them. The ten would have served as a seasoning and a preservative (Genesis 18:16-33).

Of the many ways in which the church operates as the salt of the earth, a few follow.

The very presence of the church in the world constitutes a blessing to the world. As the holy God looks down upon the ungodly race of men, His wrath is stirred. It might be expected that He would manifest Himself to humanity as an all-consuming fire. But here and there, nearly everywhere, among the wicked He beholds such as through faith in His only begotten Son have become His children. He regards them in infinite love. Scripture tells us that for their sake the days of tribulation to come will be shortened (Matthew 24:22). Likewise for their sake the time of divine forbearance is being prolonged and the day of the ultimate wreaking of divine vengeance is postponed.

A nation which once was Christian may continue for a time to partake of the fruits of Christianity. These United States are a case in point. Our American liberties are in some measure products of the Christianity of the founding fathers. Because we are fast forsaking their God, we are in process of losing the freedoms which they bequeathed to us. And yet, in comparison with many other nations we are still "the land of the free."

In many other ways the ungodly are benefited by their believing fellows. For instance, the moral tone of a community containing many Christians and several Christian churches is almost always much higher than is that of a purely pagan

Kuiper Continued...

community.

That God has not yet destroyed crooked and perverse humanity is a matter of what theologians call the common grace of God. And one reason why God is longsuffering to the world is that the church operates as salt within it. The inference is warranted that the presence of God's people in the world is one — not necessarily the only — reason for the bestowal of the other blessings of common grace. The natural blessings of rain and sunshine (Matthew 5:45), the restraint of sin in the reprobate, in consequence of which more or less orderly human society remains possible (Genesis 6:3, 20:6), the endowment of unregenerate persons with talents in the fields of science and art (Genesis 4:20-22), and also the so-called civic good which the unsaved perform (Luke 6:33), are all of them crumbs that fall from the table of God's believing children. Says Robert S. Candlish in his famous work *The Atonement*: "The entire history of the human race, from the apostasy to the final judgment, is a dispensation of forbearance in respect to the reprobate, in which many blessings, physical and moral, affecting their characters and destinies forever, accrue to the heathen, and many more to the educated and refined citizens of Christian communities" (pp. 358f.).

Most important by far, by dispensing the Word of God the church operates in the world as preserving and seasoning salt. As men believe and obey that Word, God regards them no more in consuming wrath but in saving love. Those who were "by nature the children of wrath" (Ephesians 2:3) are made "accepted in the beloved" (Ephesians 1:6).

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

In no instance does Christ bestow greater

honor upon His church than when He calls it "the light of the world." In doing so He closely identifies the church with Himself, for He is in very deed the light of the world. Time and again He is so described in Holy Writ. When aged Simeon took the babe Jesus in his arms, he spoke of Him as a light to lighten the gentiles, and the glory of God's people Israel (Luke 2:29-32). Matthew referred to the beginning of Jesus'

*"By
proclaiming
Christ to the
world the
church of
Christ becomes
the light of the
world."*

Galilean ministry as the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy: "The land of Zabulon and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles: the people that sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up" (Matthew 4:15, 16). Our Lord testified of Himself: "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12).

Thus it becomes evident at once how the church operates as the light of the world. It has no light of its own; whatever light it has is derived from Christ. As the moon reflects the light of the sun, so the church reflects the light of Him who is "the Sun of righteousness" (Malachi 4:2). By proclaiming Christ to the world the church of Christ becomes the light of the world.

"Behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people." So spoke the prophet Isaiah (60:2). How accurate a description of every period of human history since the fall, and how applicable in particular to this day and age! The Christian nations are rapidly reverting to the darkness of paganism. A dense pall of unbelief has settled down upon the very church of Christ. Seemingly insuperable barriers

Kuiper Concluded...

are in many instances keeping the light of the gospel from reaching heathen lands. The grim prince of darkness appears to have been loosed from the bottomless pit and to be hurling his demonic hordes relentlessly against Christendom. The sun of western civilization, largely the product of Christianity, seems about to set. The statesmen of the world are groping frantically for light, but the darkness keeps growing more intense. "Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night?" (Isaiah 21:11). Is there not a single ray of hope? No, not one, except for Him who is the light of the world.

When the evangelist said of the personal and living Word: "That was the true light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world" (John 1:9), he likely referred to what has been called the common light of nature. Calvin comments: "We know that men have this peculiar excellence which raises them above other animals, that they are endued with reason and intelligence, and that they carry the distinction between right and wrong engraven on their conscience. There is no man, therefore, whom some perception of the eternal *light* does not reach." But he hastens to add that the common light of nature is "far inferior to faith; for never will any man, by all the acuteness and sagacity of his own mind penetrate into the kingdom of heaven," and "the light of reason which God implanted in men has been so obscured by sin that amidst the thick darkness and shocking ignorance and gulf of errors there are hardly a few shining sparks that are not utterly extinguished."

In a much more exalted sense is Christ the light of the world. Time was when our first parents walked in the full light of the divine countenance. But they perpetrated a black deed. Then was humanity steeped in the darkness of sin and death. However, the Son of God by His death and resurrection has vanquished sin and death and brought life and immortality to light (II Timothy 1:10). By faith in Him may men

have the light of life, even of life eternal.

It is the high honor of the Christian church to consist of children of light who let their light shine by preaching Christ as Saviour and Lord to individuals and nations, and thus presenting Him who alone is able to translate sinners from darkness into light and to dispel the black clouds which envelop the peoples of earth as a shroud.

The members of Christ's church must do this by word and deed. The Christian life is no substitute for the Word of God, but the preaching of the Word must be complimented by Christian living. The Word of God is the one and only means by which sinners are brought to faith. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). But true it is that Christ's disciples have no right to expect their preaching to be effective if they do not let their light shine before men in such a way that men may see their good works (Matthew 5:16), and if they are not themselves epistles of Christ, known and read of all men (II Corinthians 3:2, 3). Here too, man may not put asunder what God has joined together. Therefore Paul admonished the Philippians: "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; holding forth the word of life" (Philippians 2:15, 16).

The apostle John saw "the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." It was the church of the future, but also the church of the present foreshadowing that which is to come. "The city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it; for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it; and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day, for there shall be no night there" (Revelation 21:2, 23-25).

Taken from The Glorious Body of Christ by R. B. Kuiper, Chapter 40, p. 261-266.

Zoar Informational Meeting

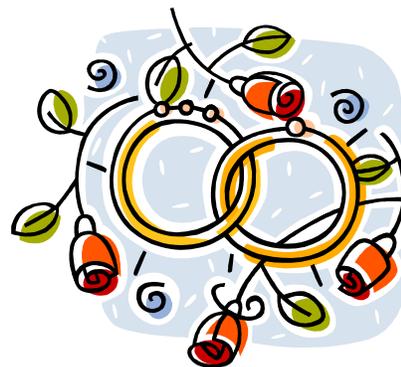
There will be a Zoar Informational Meeting on Saturday, August 4th, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at Bethel OPC in Oostburg, WI concerning the upcoming



OPC missions opportunity at Zoar (August 11th-18th). Adults and youth are encouraged to come.

Bridal Shower

There will be a Bridal Shower for Ashley De Troye on Thursday, August 30th at 6:30 p.m. All ladies are invited to attend! Bridal registries may be found at Target, Kohls, and Bed, Bath, & Beyond.



August Birthdays

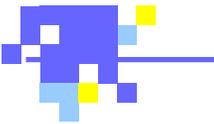


Happy Birthday!!!

Camp Westminster

The Seventh Annual Presbytery “Camp Westminster”, will be held Monday, August 6th to Friday, August 10th at the Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake, WI. This year the Rev. Dr. David VanDrunen, Professor, Westminster Seminary, California will be speaking on the early life of King David. Please see the poster and brochures on display. You may make your reservation by phone or email. Please do not call Green Lake to make your reservation.

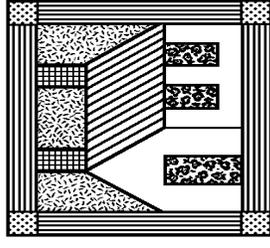




Grace OPC

August 2007

Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ



As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. -Joshua 24:15

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	2	3	4 Men's Study 7:30 a.m. <i>Zoar Info Mtg</i> 1:00 p.m.
5	6 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. <i>Camp Westminster</i>	7 Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m. <i>Camp Westminster</i>	8 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m. <i>Camp W.</i>	9 <i>Camp W.</i>	10 Answers in Genesis Conf. <i>Camp W.</i>	11 Answers in Genesis Conference
12 Missions Sunday	13 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	14	15 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	16 Church Picnic, 4:30 p.m.	17	18
19	20 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	21 Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m.	22 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	23	24	25
26 Lord's Supper, (p.m.)	27 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	28	29 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	30 Ashley DeTroye's Bridal Shower 6:30 p.m.	31	

Comments on Finance

By Joel Moody

General Fund receipts through June totaled \$74,228.65 as compared to the budget of \$69,792.99. General Fund disbursements through June totaled \$69,205.79 as compared to the budget of \$69,792.99. Through the end of June, the General Fund increased by \$6,731.30.

Benevolence Fund Receipts through June totaled \$8,731.93 while the budget was \$8,162.50. Each month, \$425.00 is sent to Worldwide Outreach for the General Missions outreach of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. In addition, each month \$187.50 is sent to the Midwest Presbytery's Church Extension Committee. There were no other Benevolence Fund disbursements planned for July. For

August, \$550.00 is slated for the ministry of the Middle East Reformed Fellowship. Please remember to keep the ministry of MERF and Rev. Victor Atallah in your prayers. There are many spiritual needs in that part of the world.

Vacation Bible School collected \$70.30 to be directed towards musical instruments in Haiti.

Help!!

We need your help....



with Church Cleaning. If you can help, please sign up for a week or two!! Thanks for all the help so far!

Steve Boss

Something Better Than Being There

by Don Schlernitzauer

"For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made know to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,' we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with Him on the holy mountain. And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophesy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophesy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."^f

~ 2 Peter 1: 16-21 (ESV)

Christianity is an apostolic faith, "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the chief cornerstone" (Ephesians 2: 20). The apostles were burdened to fulfill the great responsibility God had placed on them. Paul expressed it this way to the Galatians, calling them "my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you" (Galatians 4:19). Paul inundated his hearers with God's truth that they might be conformed to the image of their Savior.

We see the same persistent concern in Peter's words as he wrote in his second letter (1: 12) "Therefore, I intend always to remind you of these qualities though you know them and are established in the truth that you have." I believe Peter had in view the words the Holy Spirit was inspiring him to write as evidenced in v. 15 where he states, "...and I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things."

It is at this point we come to the passage written above. In 1: 16-18 of this second letter, Peter recalls the amazing experience that only he, James, and John were privileged to witness—that is, the glory of the transfiguration of our Lord. What could be greater than being at the transfiguration, and with our own

eyes, beholding the glory of Jesus Christ and hearing the Father's voice from heaven confirming His Sonship?

And yet notice Peter's next startling statement in v. 19 (ESV), "And we have something more sure, the prophetic word." Is Peter not saying that, better than an eyewitness experience of momentarily seeing Christ's glory, is having available to us God's prophetic word? Some translations add words to v. 19 to amplify the meaning, e. g., (NASB) "And so we have the prophetic word made more sure" where the words "so" and "made" are added by the translators to give the idea that the transfiguration experience confirmed the prophetic word. That confirmation is certainly true, but is not the meaning of the text powerful without adding additional words—that is, better than an eyewitness experience is the whole counsel of God's word?

We may speculate that is the reason why Peter doesn't go into more detail regarding the experience itself, for an eyewitness account of any man is subject to his frailties. We don't have to speculate, however, regarding Peter's point expressed in vv. 20-21, all Scripture is free of "someone's own interpretation," for though God used men to write Scripture, it was never "by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

Which brings us to the application: how many times have you heard expressed the sincere desire to live in biblical times, to hear Jesus, to see Jesus, to touch Him, or even to be an "eyewitness of His Majesty?" To experience these things would be great, but right there on your table, desk, or nightstand is something even better and more sure, "the prophetic word" of God. Is our daily use of this great gift—the Bible—consistent with this enlightened knowledge? No wonder Jesus said to Thomas (John 20: 29), "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Our complete confidence in the truth of God's word is the means to this great blessedness. It is better than having been there!

MALAWI REPORT

From Ivan De Master

This was my second trip to Malawi. John Tinsley and I spent a lot more time with the church on this trip. Last year Carla and I spent 4 days with Pastor Ephraim Tembo and his wife Ennie. We traveled to 7 churches and I preached at 7 worship services. This year John and I spent 16 days with the Tembos and the churches. We preached in 17 churches. John went to one church across the border in Mozambique and we each were in a United Pentecostal Church.

One of the main objectives was to teach the elders. We were in 4 of the 5 presbyteries in Malawi. Most of these were two day seminars although not always full days. My teaching covered the ministry and qualifications of elders using I Timothy 3, Titus 1, I Peter 5 and Acts 20. John Tinsley dealt with the church ministry and church discipline. In one seminar I had time to cover covenant theology.

We met the 4 seminary students that Grace and Bethel Church are supporting. Hermann and Peter are in their second year and are supported by Grace Church. Mike (also know as Joseph) and Movuto are in their first year and are being supported by Bethel Church. Support has been \$150 per year with extras when needed.

The Bibles we were able to purchase were eagerly received by the elders. Most of the 80 we had with us were given out. Some of the bicycles (money for 14 was given) were purchased and given to certain elders. Pastor Tembo prepared an agreement that was to be signed by these elders. This stated

that 1) if the elder left the denomination the bicycle was to be returned, 2) if the bicycle broke it was not the church's obligation to pay for repairs, 3) if the bicycle was loaned to someone it was the elders decision and responsibility.

Pastor Tembo decided to rent a minibus. This was less expensive than a 4x4 and provided opportunity for others to ride with us. It was not the most comfortable for long rides on very rough roads. Aubi, our driver, did well and got us safely around. Except for two chickens that did not survive and a cow that we bumped out of the way we escaped without injury. We did get stuck 3 times - once in the sand and twice in the mud. There were always plenty of people to push.

The meals were mainly chicken and rice, also tea and bread. Toward the end Ennie found out I liked peanut butter so we had peanut butter sandwiches with our tea. There was nsima, noodles, goat liver, beef, and fish on occasion. At the motel we settled on scrambled eggs and toast for breakfast.

When we arrived at the airport Michael Gondwe and his family were there to greet us. Stanley Chiwaya was also there. They greeted us eagerly (and asked me to give greetings to Grace Church) and were helpful in dealing with the luggage. One piece of luggage did not arrive with us - the bag with all the clothes and cloth for the Tembos. We filled out a report and were able to pick it up the next week. They were

Report Concluded...

happy with the gifts. Haswell, their 3 year old son, loved his little car and slept with it under his pillow the first night.

We had one afternoon of sight seeing. We stopped at the oldest church in Malawi. It is a Presbyterian Church built in 1880 under the direction of the Scottish missionary Henry Henderson. It is a large brick building still used today. Nearby are the offices of the Blantyre Synod. There is also a large high school on the property. Then we drove to the top of a mountain overlooking the city. On the top is a large cross and the stations of the cross.

On the final day we drove to Zomba, about an hours drive. We went first to see Michael Gondwe and his office. He works with the Youth Net and Counseling services. This private organization is directed toward woman and children - dealing with domestic violence, rights of women and children, and other issues of the society. They have been doing this for 10 years and have 84 people working for them in several cities in Malawi. We then visited his home. His wife Tionge just arrived from an all night ride on a bus that had been broken down for 4 hours. We also saw little Carla Gondwe.

In reflecting on our time in Malawi it is humbling to realize that we are their primary contact to the church outside their country. Here is an opportunity to encourage

them to be faithful to the gospel and to the teachings of the Reformed faith. We are helping to support the men in seminary so that the ministers might be provided for this denomination. They know and respect the Orthodox Presbyterian Church but only through us - through Grace and now through Bethel Churches. Here is an open door and we are being invited to continue this

relationship. I have a great appreciation for these churches and for what the Lord is doing in that part of Africa.

Further help for them can be provided by means of Catechisms. The Westminster Shorter Catechism was printed and we saw the first copies. The children's catechism will soon be printed. We can help with 1000 more copies of the Shorter

Catechism (\$150) and of the Children's Catechism (\$100). More OPC Book of Church order are needed. (John Tinsley is working on this.) The Tembos would each like to have a large print English Bible and commentaries for the seminary students would be of great help. Metal roofs for churches are needed. Bags of cement are also needed (\$12 per bag). A box of 20 Bibles now costs \$110.

Continue to pray for our brothers and sisters as they pray for us.

Ivan De Master



LETTER FROM MALAWI

from Rev. Ivan De Master

Dear Ivan & John,

I would like to thank you once more for the big job you did by teaching elders of different presbyteries of A.P.C. Thanks for preaching the Word of God to the poor souls who need salvation. You did a very tremendous job during the time you were with us.

Pass my sincere thanks to your elders, deacons, the congregations and the individuals who made the work successful with their finances and lastly thanks be unto the Lord who made everything possible.

I am glad to know that you had a nice trip back home and that you found your wives fine. We are sorry to learn that the tape was erased through the x-ray machine. Ennie will also record one or two when we happen to visit Madziabango and Ngabu churches and she will send them by post.

My wife and I are very much thankful for the clothes, shoes, books and the suitcase which covered some of our domestic problems. Thanks again for finances which you gave us for our personal problems and for the church (ministry).

With the money for the bicycles, I managed to buy 14 bicycles. I bought 1 box of chichewa Bibles also. Children's catechism will be printed by next week. I gave 1 book of Church Order to Bright Mhone, and I gave some jackets to elders and Hermann.

I hope to write to you at greater length. Ennie sends her greetings to your wives.

In the Master's service,

EPHRAIM

Hymn Trivia

The Hymn Writer who...

Probably wrote the most hymns compared to other hymn writers...

And...

Eventually had some editors ask her to use pseudonyms for some of her hymns because the editors had so many of her songs in their hymn books...

WAS...

Fanny Crosby



Answers in Genesis Conference

Answers in Genesis Conference

Friday, August 10, 2007 to Saturday, August 11, 2007

Dr. David Menton, Professor and Creation Speaker

Location

Holiday Inn

4601 Calumet Ave.

Manitowoc, Wisconsin 54220

United States

Schedule

Friday, August 10, 2007

7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

[Dr. David Menton](#): What a difference a day makes

8:00 PM to 8:25 PM

[Dr. David Menton](#): Beauty is Skin Deep

Saturday, August 11, 2007

9:00 AM to 10:00 AM

[Dr. David Menton](#): Inherently Wind - A Hollywood History of the Scopes Trial

10:30 AM to 11:30 AM

[Dr. David Menton](#): Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

[Dr. David Menton](#): The Hearing Ear and the Seeing Eye

2:30 PM to 3:30 PM

[Dr. David Menton](#): Lucy - She's No Lady

4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

[Dr. David Menton](#): Formed to Fly

5:30 PM to 6:30 PM

[Dr. David Menton](#): Dinosaurs by Design

More Information:

Online at:

http://www.answersingenesis.org/events/details.aspx?Event_ID=5736

Contact:

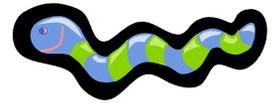
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Young Reflections

A page designed especially for the children of Grace Church (by Samantha De Jong)



Praise God for fresh fruit! At this time of year, we enjoy yummy blueberries, raspberries, and cherries. Soon peaches and apples will also be ready to pick. What a wonderful creator God is, to make trees and bushes produce delicious food for us. God created you to bear fruit too. In Colossians 1:10, Paul says we are to “bear fruit in every good work.” God doesn’t want you to produce cherries or peaches, but He does want you to act, speak, and think according to His Word. What fruit are you bearing in your life?



(Miss Ashley) De Troye's Delicious Dirt Delights

Be sure to ask your parents before you make this tasty treat. Thanks for the recipe, Ashley!

1 (16-oz) package **Oreo Cookies**

1 (8-oz) container **Cool Whip**, thawed

1 gallon-size **Zip-Lock Bag**

8-10 **Clear Plastic Cups** (7-oz size)

2 Cups cold **Milk**

Gummy Worms

1 (4-serving) package **Instant Chocolate Pudding Mix**

Put all of the **Oreo Cookies** into the **Zip-Lock Bag**, and use a rolling pin to crush them into tiny crumbs. Pour the **Milk** into a large bowl. Add the **Instant Chocolate Pudding** the **Cool Whip** and half of the cookie crumbs. Spoon the mixture into the **Clear Plastic Cups**. Top with the remaining cookie crumbs, and decorate with **Gummy Worms**.



Mystery Animal

A new challenge for you young detectives! If you can discover the identity of this secretive creature, you will win a prize from the Treasure Chest.

Peek-a-boo, here I am! I’m sorry I dove into my burrow when I heard you coming; I thought you might be a coyote or rattlesnake looking for a meal. If you had been an enemy, you would never have caught me. The tunnel leading to my home goes straight down for over twelve feet, then branches out into a complex maze of rooms and hallways. I’m not allowed to tell you my name, but I will give you a hint. (Just don’t tell Samantha; she’s terribly strict.) Ready? Here’s the clue. Part of my name refers to the fact that I live on the open, grassy plains of western America. I receive the other part because of the sound I make: a short sharp bark. Oh no! Here comes a hungry hawk. I’d better go hide in my home. Good-bye for now!

Mexican Lasagna

- ★ 2 lbs. browned ground beef
- ★ 6-10 flour tortillas
- ★ 1 jar enchilada sauce
- ★ 1 can cream of chicken soup
- ★ 1 can chopped chilies
- ★ 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- ★ 2-3 tsp. chili powder
- ★ 1/2 tsp. cumin
- ★ 1/2 cup chopped onion
- ★ 8 oz. shredded cheddar cheese
- ★ 8 oz. shredded Monterey Jack cheese

Brown ground beef. Add onion, enchilada sauce, chicken soup, chilies and spices. Layer 2-3 tortillas in 9x13" pan. Pour 1/3 of meat mixture on top. Sprinkle with 4 oz. cheddar cheese. Repeat layers, topping with 8 oz. Monterey Jack cheese.

Bake 40 minutes at 350°.

Sue Gross



“There is nothing better for a man than to eat and drink and tell himself that his labor is good. This also I have seen, that it is from the hand of God. For who can have enjoyment without Him?”



Proclaiming the
Excellencies of our
Lord Jesus Christ.

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Did You Know?

- ★ Did you know that the birthplace of John Bunyan (1628) was near Bedford, England?
- ★ That during his younger days, Bunyan was a tinker, as well as a soldier in the Parliament army?
- ★ That when he married, his wife brought along some “devotional tracts”, which he read with interest although yet an unbeliever?

★ He led a wild and rebellious life until he came to Christ and was baptized?

★ “Serious & judicious members of... [the] church... apprehended that, both from his gifts & experience he was calculated for public & eminent usefulness in the church.”

★ That John Bunyan was arrested and imprisoned for preaching in November of 1660?

★ This imprisonment lasted 12 years?

★ He had four children, one of whom was blind?

★ He did have a Bible with him in the prison in Bedford, and that is where he penned his work, The Pilgrim’s Progress?

★ After writing numerous other books including The Holy War, John Bunyan died at the age of 60 after a short illness?

Information found in The Holy War, Chapter: The Life of John Bunyan, pg. 1-67, quote (25).

Church Picnic

Everyone is invited to come to the annual church picnic, which will be held on Thursday, August 16th starting at 4:30 p.m. With dinner at 6:00 p.m. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Everyone is invited to bring their own beverage,

plates, cups, napkins, silverware and softball mitts, bats, etc., and lawn chairs. Come for this fun time of food and fellowship!

