

# REFLECTIONS

The Monthly Newsletter of Grace OPC

## FACING MORTALITY

*By Pastor Brian De Jong*

Ecclesiastes 8:8 reminds us that “No man has authority to restrain the wind with the wind, or authority over the day of death...” Here we find the ageless paradox – that the fact our death is a certainty but that its exact date, time and manner remain a mystery.

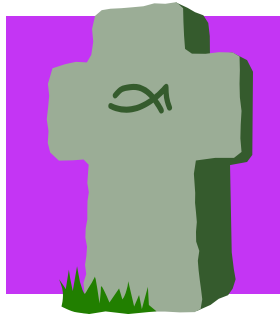
Recently I have received a double dose of human mortality. As I gazed upon the body of my deceased uncle I was reminded “ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF.” When his coffin was placed in the grave, we remembered that God turns men back into dust, and says, “Return, O children of men.”

Coming home from the funeral, I was laid low with an infection that left me listless for several days. As I lay upon my sickbed, I could feel in my body the process of decay. Though recovery for me is well underway, none of us are ever far from illness, disease and even death. We are very mortal creatures. Moses says in Psalm 90:<sup>10</sup> *As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, Or if due to strength, eighty years, Yet their pride is but labor and sorrow; For soon it is gone and we fly away.*”

While such contemplations may seem morbid, there is deep wisdom in pondering our own mortality. The Teacher tells us this in Ecclesiastes 7 *It is better to go to a house of mourning Than to go to a house of feasting, Because that is the end of every man, And the living takes it to heart... The mind of the wise is in the house of mourning, While the mind of fools is in the house of pleasure.*

What wisdom do we gain by going to a

house of mourning? First, we gain wisdom for this life, and the remainder of our time here below. Staring at death makes us face the fact that our days are exactly numbered, and they are fast running out. What should be our priorities for our remaining moments? How will we spend these few finite days? Our life priorities can sometimes subtly and imperceptibly shift. Realizing our own finiteness brings the positive benefit of resetting our fundamental commitments.



An awareness of our mortality also prepares us for the future. Every time we visit a funeral home, or drive past a cemetery, we should call to mind the sober words of Hebrews 9:27 “... it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment...” Realizing that this life is but a brief prelude to the world that is to come should remind us that what we do here and now will count for eternity. If we love and serve Christ, there will be everlasting reward and unimaginable blessedness. But if we refuse Him in this present day of salvation, and go on “sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES.” Observing death brings the realities of eternity into sharp focus, and should spur us to diligently prepare for the world to come. Lord, teach us to number our days aright, that we might present to you a heart of wisdom!

Volume 3, Issue 2  
February 2008

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### Mnemonics...

- Joint Service, 17th
- Taco Dinner & Game Night, 29th

# Ask the Pastor

By Pastor Brian De Jong

Recently I received these questions: *“What is the best way to address the Jehovah’s Witnesses at my door? Can you give me specific verses to make them see their error?”*

Allow me to first summarize some of the key errors of Jehovah’s Witnesses. Among other things, the JW’s believe that God is unipersonal – a single personal divine being whose name is Jehovah. This means that they necessarily deny the Trinity. They hold that Jesus was a created angel and not fully and eternally divine. They reject the historical orthodox teaching about the deity of Christ. They also teach that the Holy Spirit is an impersonal force, and not a distinct personal being. JW’s are taught that the idea of the Trinity was fabricated by Satan in order to blaspheme the one God – Jehovah. So they are no friends of historic Christianity.

Their doctrine of salvation is a mixture of faith and works. They have a weak view of sin and its effects. They tend to have an apocalyptic theme in many of their publications, thinking that the catastrophic end times are almost upon us.

Like many other cults, they give lip service to the Bible, but only believe it is authoritative when it is interpreted by the Watchtower Society. They have their own “translation” – the New World Translation. More and more the JW’s seek to hide their identity in their publications, and the only way to know who they really are is by some reference to the Watchtower Society. That is a tip-off that the material comes from a Jehovah’s Witness source.

How to best respond? First a word of caution from Scripture. Paul describes to Timothy false teachers who were *“holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power.”* The Apostle warns us to *“Avoid such men as these. For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”* Jesus likewise warned his followers to be-

ware of false prophets.

Followers of cults want to come into your home, challenge your faith, fill you with doubts and fears, and then infect you with their heretical teachings. You must be careful lest you become ensnared by their strategy. More than a few Christians have been led astray by this seemingly innocent interaction. You should be on full alert whenever these folk come around, and consider them to be spiritually dangerous to your soul.

I would also add that the differences between orthodox Christianity and the cults is not just a matter of locating the right verses. There is a whole complex of ideas that they hold that deny and contradict what the Scriptures teach. It is a systemic problem. Moreover, cult followers often have a devilish way of twisting our Scripture verses around, making them say exactly the opposite of what the passage actually teaches. Since they meet resistance in their “missionary endeavors” they teach and train their followers in how to distort the Word of God and make it support their false teachings. Be prepared for a battle over any verse you call to their attention, and beware of their smooth-sounding interpretations of your passages.

If you do decide to interact with them, then I would suggest a two-pronged strategy that is laid out in Proverbs 26:4-5 *“Do not answer a fool according to his folly, Or you will also be like him. <sup>5</sup> Answer a fool as his folly deserves, That he not be wise in his own eyes.”* Simply stated, you must not buy into the errors of the fool or you will become like him. Rather you should reject his errors in favor of the truth. Holding fast to the truth, you should demonstrate to the fool the error of his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.

Here is how this approach looks in such a situation: When the JW knocks on the door, and you identify who he is, then you should clearly say that you reject the errors of his position about the Trinity, about Christ, and about salvation. Openly affirm that you hold to the historic Christian teachings as they are found in the Bible. Then, having established your definite position, you can attempt show to him the

## Ask the Pastor Concluded...

folly of his position by walking him to the logical conclusions of his thinking. (This step not only takes some previous practice, but a good knowledge of your Bible and a passing knowledge of the specifics of their errors.) As you skillfully lead him down this path, you can demonstrate that his beliefs end up in complete chaos and hopelessness. Then, having knocked down his false position, you can appeal to him with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Obviously space will not allow for a full treatment of this system in this article, but I strongly believe that this is the very approach that Jesus employed with the Jews, that Paul used in Athens with the Greek philosophers, and that Jephthah practice in regard to the king of Ammon. I hope to have the opportunity to teach more fully on these matters later this year.

Lest you have a JW show up before I'm able to do this training, let me give you one verse and a sample discussion that will give you a start in responding to your visitors. The verse is Colossians 2:9 "For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form." Here is how I would handle an encounter:

JW: Knock, knock.

BDJ: *Hello. May I help you?*

JW: We're giving out free religious materials and wondered if we could leave this with you?

BDJ: *[take literature, quickly scan for identifying info] Who are you with? What is your group?*

JW: [hemming, hawing] We're with the Watchtower Society.

BDJ: *So you're members of the Jehovah's Witnesses, is that correct?*

JW: [more hemming, hawing] Yes

BDJ: *I'm a Christian, and am committed to what the Bible teaches.*

JW: We are too, and that's why we'd like to leave you this literature.

BDJ: *Tell me, according to your group, who is Jesus Christ?*

JW: Jesus Christ was God's Son.

BDJ: *But was He fully and truly God?*

JW: We believe that Jesus was originally known as the Archangel Michael. He was conceived and born to Mary, and during his time on earth he earned his immortality by finishing his earthly course without error. When Jesus died, he was forever dead but his spirit became a new and better version of Michael the Archangel.

BDJ: *But was He fully and truly God? Is He divine?*

JW: No, he was not.

BDJ: *Do you believe in the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – three persons in one God forever?*

JW: We believe in the one God, Jehovah.

BDJ: *Do you believe in the Trinity?*

JW: No.

BDJ: *I want you to know that I reject your errors, especially your false views about Jesus Christ. Colossians 2:9 clearly says that in Jesus Christ all the fullness of the Deity lived in bodily form. Jesus Christ was and is God incarnate – fully and truly Divine, and not just an angel as your group teaches. I would challenge you to repent of your false views, and turn in faith to Jesus Christ.*

[The basic flow of this conversation actually transpired on my front doorstep about 10 years ago with several representatives of a cult. To my knowledge they did not repent and they did not come back either. Obviously there is much more that could be done and said in such a situation. This is not the entire possible response, but just a short-form to get you thinking.]



# February Birthdays



*Happy Birthday!!!*

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## 2007 Thank Offering Report

*From Rev. Danny Olinger*

The Thank Offering provides the opportunity for us as God's people to give glory to God in reflection on what he has done for his people over the last year. In thankful service to our God, the Committees on Christian Education, Home and Foreign Missions of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church continue the work which our Lord has given us to do on behalf of the whole church. It is a joy, then, to announce that \$743,093 has been received from reporting congregations for the 2007 Thank Offering, exceeding the goal of \$700,000.

I would also like to thank you for your giving to Worldwide Outreach (WWO). In having received receipts for \$3,028,068, the program committees of Christian Education, Home Missions and Church Extension, and Foreign Missions reached and even exceeded 100% of their budgets. How we praise our Lord for his wonderful

provision through your generous giving! We thank God for the great work that he has done in you and the great work that he is doing through you.

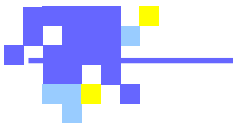
### **Giving Summary:**

Thank Offering - \$743,093

Total WWO 2007 Giving [includes New Horizons and Coordination] - \$3,028,068

Foreign Missions Committee \$1,193,035  
Home Missions Committee \$949,700  
Christian Education Committee \$344,103  
Coordination and New Horizons \$541,230

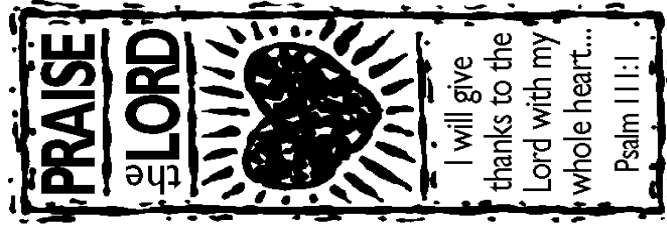
From: Rev. Danny E. Olinger  
*General Secretary of the Committee on Christian Education*



Grace OPC

# February 2008

*Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ*



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Joint Service Choir Practice, 2 p.m.	4 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. <i>Theology Class,</i> 3 p.m.	5 Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m.	6 Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.	7	8	9
10 Missions Sunday <i>Meadowview Manor, 2 p.m.</i>	11 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	12	13 Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.	14	15	16
17 Joint Service at Bethel OPC, 6 p.m.	18 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. <i>Theology Class,</i> 3 p.m.	19 Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m.	20 Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.	21 Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	22	23
24 Lord's Supper (p.m.)	25 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	26	27 Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.	28	29 Taco Dinner & Game Night, 6:30 p.m.	
						2 Men's Bible Study, 7:30 a.m.

# Mission Trip to Haiti

*By Liz Vallis*

Leaving the largest, most detailed cruise ship ever built behind us, we arrived in Labadie, Haiti. To our left, we could see cerulean blue waves crashing rhythmically against the white-sand beach. Hundreds of reclining beach chairs had been set up facing out towards the sun-reflecting ocean for only one purpose: relaxing while the sun beats its hot rays down. In the light Caribbean breeze, birds could be heard pouring out their souls joyfully in song. The warm air also brought the tantalizing smells of a barbeque preparation.

To everyone following after us, this temptation was too great. But as for our group, we turned our heads to the awaiting water taxis down the shore and to the right. These rickety, old boats were made of used wood and had been painted just about every color imaginable! Once everyone had clamored up/across the soft, wet wood ladders into the taxis, we were off toward another side of the island: the not-so-glamorous side. The side of the island not shown in vacation advertisements. The side where women wash laundry in the dirty rivers while children run and play naked. The smelly side where houses are un-kept and lush yards of green grass are scarce. This is the side of poverty.

After our walk through the village, we were at our destination: a large open-air enclosure made from a stone wall. We hurried in and immediately got to work setting up the puppet stage and as many hard wooden chairs as possible. Once those tasks were completed, my mom and I got all our face-painting materials organized and laid out. Hundreds of children from 2 different schools soon came stampeding through the “door” – an opening in the wall.

The anticipation couldn't be hidden on the children's faces. They were ecstatic about the performance of the puppets and the songs that

were sung, even though they spoke French and we spoke English. When the concert was over, the kids could play games at different stations, or have their face painted.

At the face painting station, the students were supposed to line up and wait for their turn. The exhilaration was overwhelming! Little boys and girls would climb onto our laps in hopes of being next. They loved the special attention.

These kids touched my heart! Even though verbal communication was non-existent, we could clearly identify with each other through body language and mannerisms. These children have so much less than they deserve, and yet joy emulated from them with just the presence of our group. It hits me hard that the little these kids actually have, they treasure with all their might, while here in the United States, we take everything we have (even things we don't have) for granted. We feel that, for some reason, we have the right to be given these things.

Everyday these kids are faced with struggles that I can't imagine having to deal with: death, hunger, no education, single parents, no clothes, and many other things. Even through all this, the kids have bright smiles and eager attitudes. I feel that there are only two explanations for this behavior. First, the people with such living conditions put more value in time and relationships, rather than placing their self worth in how many physical things they can acquire throughout their lifetime. I also think a high level of faith is put on God to take care of them, and this trust gives them assurance for life.

*“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?”*  
~Matthew 6:25



# Missions Project

Grace OPC,

1-21-08

I just wanted to say “thank-you” for donating to the project in Haiti. We were able to provide enough materials for 2000 children. Your generosity was greatly appreciated. The enclosed pictures are the children in Haiti as well as a school in Jamaica.\*

Thank you for taking part in blessing these children.

In Christian Love,  
Mary Vallis

*\* For the rest of the pictures,  
please see the Missions  
bulletin board in the entry way  
at church.*





# A Psalm for All Ages—Even John's

By Don Schlernitzauer

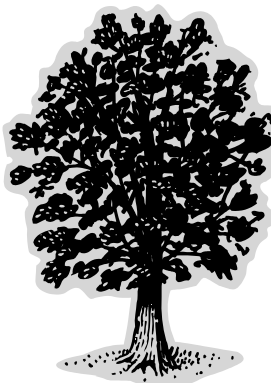
*“Be to me a rock of refuge to which I may continually come; you have given the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress... You who have made me see many troubles and calamities will revive me again; from the depths of the earth you will bring me up again.”*

--- Psalm 71: 3, 20

Just recently having added a number to my age, I feel drawn to Psalm 71. Most commentators believe that though the psalm is untitled, it was written by David and almost certainly towards the end of his life. Some commentators, therefore, refer to Psalm 71 as a “psalm for old age” (note especially v. 18).

But one of the wonderful things about God's Word is its universality, not only in regard to the century or millennium in which He has placed us, but as well the decade and year we are in as the Spirit opens up a particular passage to us. Few of us have contact with sheep, but as we read Psalm 23, all of us warm to the Lord being our Shepherd no matter what historical age or year of life that we are in. No wonder the Bible calls God's Word the “living word”.

Taking just vv. 3 and 20 from Psalm 71, we see God as rock and refuge of those who believe, even though by providence, He is the one who in wisdom brings them all their troubles and calamities. But not only does He revive His own after each of these hard experiences (v. 20), He gives the command to save each one (v. 3), as well as the promise of that one's resurrection from the grave (v. 20). As a



follower of Christ lives in the truth of these living words, a beautiful testimony like a sweet aroma arises from his life.

As I meditated on these two verses, I thought of a wonderful Christian friend, a missionary named John. He, his dear wife, and five children had been called by some “the ideal missionary family.” But in this past year their wise Rock and Refuge chose to open the floodgates of adversity for them. First one daughter was afflicted with an eating disorder, anorexia, and then another daughter rebelled against God and family, joining a Guatemalan gang. This latter event caused them to leave the mission field and return to Canada. They loved the mission field, but trusted God's providence to take them home.

Soon John found work and God provided help for the girls. Now there was a little time to settle in for this trusting but troubled family. But only a few months passed until a lump appeared in John's throat, not on the inside but on the outside.

At his wife's urging, he had it investigated. Thyroid cancer—that's not the kind of news on top of already bad news that you want to hear. As in v. 20, God allowed John to see another trouble. The doctors say a cure is likely, and John like the psalmist believes that God will see him through this, and revive him again.

John is only in his early 40's, but he has studied and lived the Scriptures, and the living words of this “psalm of old age” fit him to a “T”. Since I have known him, his life has been a good testimony to me, but this past year, the sweet aroma of his witness has brought joy to my heart. Can we imagine our heavenly Father's response?

# Our Nationwide & International Ministry

*By Pastor Brian De Jong*

Just one year ago Grace Church became a broadcasting member of Sermonaudio.com. This is a website dedicated to broadcasting solid, Reformed preaching by means of the internet. I wasn't sure what sort of results we would see, but thought it was worth a try. Since last January we have uploaded 120 sermons for broadcasting. These sermons are available 24/7 to anyone anywhere who has a computer and an internet connection.

One encouraging development is the recent sermons on the Sabbath. The first of the three – God's Good Gift – has had 47 downloads since it was posted on January 7<sup>th</sup>. The second sermon on Jesus and the Sabbath (Part 1) has gotten 36 downloads since January 14<sup>th</sup> and the third has had 27 listeners since January 21<sup>st</sup>. All together, those sermons have been heard 110 times in addition to their original "airing" at Grace Church.

Each month the folks at Sermonaudio send us a monthly report detailing how many sermons were downloaded, and from what locations. In just a year our sermons have been downloaded 3038 times by people in 45 foreign countries and 42 of our 50 states. That's an average of around 9 sermons per day throughout most of the U.S. and a good portion of the world.

The list of states is as follows: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Colombia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia,

Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

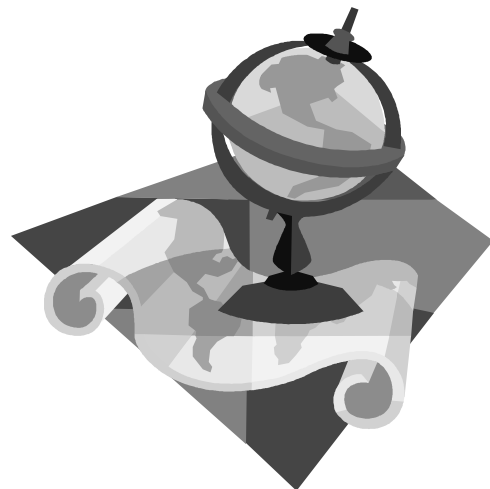
Internationally, the greatest concentration is from Europe. The sixteen countries are Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Finland, Norway, Ireland, the Netherlands, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Italy, and Romania.

Africa also has a significant number, with 10 nations: Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Mauritius, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Sri Lanka, and Zambia.

In Asia there have been listeners from China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, Vietnam, Korea, Philippines, as well as from "down under" – New Zealand and Australia.

South America also makes a showing with Brazil and Venezuela. And even closer to home are listeners from Canada, Mexico, Barbados, Puerto Rico, and Dominican Republic.

As God has provided this means to send His gospel to far corners of His creation, let us pray that He would use our church in Sheboygan for much good around the world, and that many would come to faith in Christ through this ministry.



# Church Spending Policy

*from Joel Moody*

The Trustees of Grace Church have adopted a Church Spending Policy during this past year. Below is a portion from that policy:

## ● Charge Cards

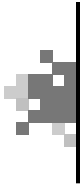
- If there is a perceived need for an additional charge card for the Church, discussion with the Treasurer is required beforehand so that the appropriateness of the request for a particular card may be evaluated. The Treasurer is responsible for forwarding the Application for a Charge Card to the respective vendor.
- The Treasurer is responsible to notify the Officers of the Board of Trustees and a representative of the Session of any new charge account that is opened.
- Custody of the charge card must be held by one person who is also a Trustee **or** a person responsible for purchases from that particular vendor and who has been approved by the Board of Trustees to make such purchases on an ongoing basis.
- The Board of Trustees has the discretion to set a spending limit on each charge card utilized by the Church.
- Any limits on a charge card authorized by the Trustees must be communicated to the Treasurer (the Treasurer could foreseeably not be at a meeting at which such limit is approved).
- If there is a temporary need for a charge card to be utilized by someone not assigned for that purpose, inquiry and approval of the Treasurer must be made and obtained prior to the temporary transfer of the possession of the card.

## ● Reimbursement of Expenses to Church

### Members, etc.

- Proper authorization from the responsible Committee Chair needs to be obtained prior to purchase or order of the item, good, or supply.
- Inquiry should be made by the Committee Chair of the Treasurer to determine if the Church already has an account with particular vendors. The inquiry would not be required if it is known beforehand that the Church has an account with the particular vendor. If the Church has a vendor account, then the Church account should be used in preference to buying the item and seeking reimbursement from the Treasurer.
- The responsible Committee Chair needs to indicate their approval of the purchased item by marking “ok” along with their signature marked on the expense slip or store receipt.
- Request for reimbursement needs to include store register receipts or other documentation from the vendor or supplier of the item.
- Request for reimbursement should clearly state the purpose of the expenditure and description if it is not self-evident.
- Request for reimbursement needs to clearly state on the documentation who to pay the check to.
- When all of the aforementioned in this section has been obtained, the request for reimbursement may be given to the Treasurer.

If there are questions on any of these procedures or need for clarification, please discuss them with the Treasurer.

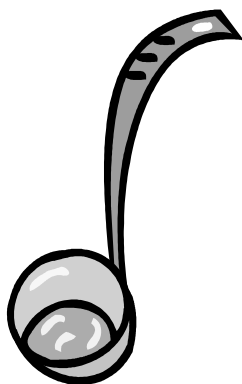


# Soup & Sandwich Recipes

*Recipes from the previous Soup & Sandwich Potluck*

## Gumbo

- 1 whole chicken breast
- 1 smoked ham steak or Polish sausage
- 1/2 lb. large shrimp
- 2 cans stewed tomatoes
- 3 ribs celery
- 1 large Spanish onion
- 4 cloves fresh garlic
- 1 pkg. frozen okra
- 1 large green pepper
- 1 large potato
- 1/2 cup raw rice
- 3 bay leaves
- 2 pkgs. Goya Sazon
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. cayenne pepper
- 1 tsp. Goya Adobo
- 2 tsp. parsley flake
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil



Wash chicken and place in a pan with enough water to cover plus an extra 2 cups. Add all the spices. Cover and simmer 45 minutes or until tender.

While all the chicken is cooking, coarsely chop onion, celery, green pepper and garlic. In a Dutch oven, sauté vegetables in olive oil until soft. Cut smoked ham steak into bite sized pieces. Peel potato and cut into cubes. Wash shell and de-vein shrimp, and cut each in half.

Remove chicken breast from the broth and let it cool. Add the broth, potato, stewed tomatoes, parsley flakes, and the cubed ham to the sautéed vegetables. When the chicken breast is

cool enough, separate it from the bones, and cut it into bite-sized pieces. Add to the broth and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 1 hour. Add rice, okra, and shrimp. Cook a remaining half hour, remove bay leaves, and serve. Relax!!!

*Chris Kaiser*

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## Golden Butternut Bisque

- 3 medium onions, chopped
- 4 medium carrots, chopped
- 5 Tbsp. butter
- 3 lbs. butternut squash, peeled, seeded, and cubed
- 6 cups chicken broth
- 2 tsps. salt
- 1/2 tsp. dried thyme
- 1/4 tsp. white pepper
- 1 cup half-and-half cream
- 1/2 cup milk
- Grated Parmesan cheese and chives, optional



In a Dutch oven or soup kettle, sauté onions and carrots in butter for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the squash, broth, salt, thyme and pepper; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 30-35 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Cool until lukewarm. In a blender, puree soup in small batches until smooth; return to kettle. Stir in cream and milk; heat through (do not boil). Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese and chives if desired. **Yield:** 12-14 servings (3-1/2 quarts).

*De Jongs*



## Recipes Continued...

### Creamy White Chile

- 1 lb. boneless skinless chicken breasts,  
cut into 1/2 inch cubes
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1-1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 2 cans (15-1/2 oz.) great northern beans, rinsed  
and drained (we use the equivalent of dried  
beans)
- 1 can (14-1/2 oz.) chicken broth
- 2 cans (4 oz. each) chopped green chilies
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. ground cumin
- 1 tsp. dried oregano
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper
- 1 cup (8 oz.) sour cream
- 1/2 cup whipping cream

In a large saucepan, sauté chicken, onion, and garlic powder in oil until chicken is no longer pink. Add beans, broth, chilies, and seasonings. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 30 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in sour cream and whipping cream. Serve immediately. **Yield:** 7 servings.

*Debbie & Emily Boss*



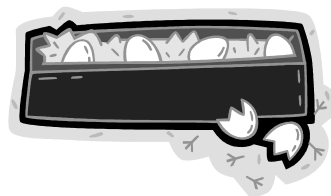
### Egg Salad Spread

- 10 hard boiled eggs
- 1 pkg. dried beef, cut up
- 1/2 green pepper, diced
- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 3-4 Tbsp. Miracle Whip

Chop eggs as for egg salad, add green peppers & dried beef. Mix cream cheese & miracle whip add to egg mixture.

Great on crackers. Enjoy.

*Ellen Mc Neese*



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### Loaded Baked Potato Soup

- 4 large baking potatoes\*
- 1 1/4 tsp. salt
- 10 Tbsp. butter or margarine
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 2/3 cup flour
- 8 slices bacon, cooked & crumbled
- 6 cups milk
- 8 oz. sour cream, regular or lite
- 2 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese (lite or  
regular) - divided
- 2- 3 green onions, chopped

Scrub potatoes and bake in 400° oven for 60-90

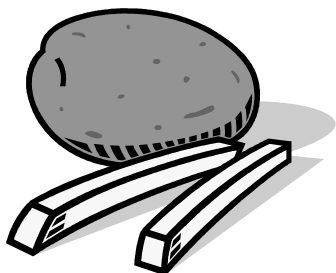
## Recipes Concluded...

minutes or until they're soft when you squeeze them. Remove the potatoes from the oven and cut in half lengthwise. Use a spoon to scoop out the pulp into a large bowl. Set aside. Save the leftover skins to make potato skins or discard.

Melt butter or margarine in a large saucepan over low heat. Add the flour, stirring until smooth. Cook for about a minute, stirring constantly. Turn heat up to medium and continue stirring while slowly adding the milk. Continue to stir until mixture is thick and bubbly. Add 1 1/2 cups of the cheddar cheese, salt, pepper and bacon. Mash the potato pulp to get rid of the large chunks. Add the potato pulp to the pan, stirring to mix. when it is heated through, add the sour cream and stir to mix well. **Do not boil the soup.** The soup should be thick, not runny. Once it's heated through, spoon into serving bowls. Top each bowl with a sprinkle of shredded cheddar and some green onions as garnish. (serves 8)

\* The large potatoes are the ones sold individually in the produce department.

*Monika Doro*



## Toscana Soup

1 lb. Italian sausage  
 1 medium onion  
 1/2 lb. bacon  
 2-4 cloves garlic, freshly minced (to taste)  
 4 cups chicken broth  
 3 cups water  
 5 medium potatoes  
 4 cups fresh kale (or less)  
 1 cup heavy cream

Brown and fully cook sausage; drain. Slice into wheels and set aside. Peel and dice potatoes; set aside. Thinly slice fresh kale; set aside.

Cook chopped onion and diced bacon in 6 quart saucepan over medium heat for 3-4 minutes. Stir in garlic and cook 1 minute. Add chicken broth, water, and potatoes.

Bring to a boil; reduce heat to medium and simmer for 25 minutes until potatoes are tender. Stir in kale, cream and sausage. Cook for 5 more minutes.

*Megan Boss*

## Young Reflections

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



**Can you find your favorite stories in the Bible?** Test your Scripture knowledge in this activity. Match each Bible story on the left with its chapter from the list on the right.

**God Creates the World**

1 Samuel 17

**God Saves Daniel From Lions**

1 Kings 17

**God Saves Noah in an Ark**

Daniel 6

**God Saves David from Goliath**

Exodus 14

**God Sends a Fish to Swallow Jonah**

Genesis 1-2

**God Uses Ravens to Feed Elijah**

Genesis 6-9

**God Brings Israel Out of Egypt**

Jonah 1-2



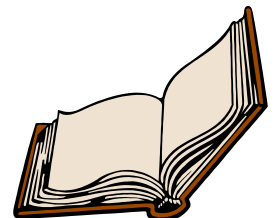
## Memory Work Challenge



Memorize this prayer from Psalm 119. Then recite it to Samantha De Jong to win a prize from the Treasure Chest!

“Your hands made me and fashioned me; give me understanding, that I may learn your commandments.” Psalm 119:73

Do you ever have trouble understanding what you read in the Bible? Even when you know what the words mean, it is sometimes hard to figure out how they apply to your life. The best way to solve this problem is to ask the Author of those words for help. “If any of you lacks wisdom,” James says, “He should ask God...and it will be given to him.” Your Heavenly Father will show you what His book means, and give you strength to obey it. So next time you don’t understand something in your Bible, pray to God for help—and wait expectantly for His answer!





# Malawi

*from Rev. Ivan De Master*

We continue to have an ongoing relationship with Pastor Ephraim Tembo and the church in Malawi. I learned that there is another pastor from the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, that has had contact with Pastor Tembo. I have tried to contact this pastor but have not been able to do so up to this point.

Pastor Tembo had contacted a serious case of malaria and had to receive treatment at the hospital. With the Lord's help and the proper medication he is doing well again.

We have been helping 4 students with the fees for their theological training. They have just returned for their new year which starts in January. They are attending the Sola Scriptura Theological School. Herman, one of the students we have been helping, has not returned for his final year. The presbytery has judged that he has not demonstrated the gifts for the ministry. It is possible that he might return if he is willing to listen to the counsel of the presbytery.

There is another student, Christopher, who is entering his final year that has applied to the Associate Presbyterian Church to enter the ministry. He has learned of the denomination through Peter, the other student Grace Church has helped. We have agreed to pay for his fees in the

place of those for Herman.

At this time the people in southern Malawi are suffering from a food shortage. Last year there was a lot flooding that destroyed many of the crops. Their new harvest will not come until March. (They are south of the equator.) Between now and then is when the food is needed.

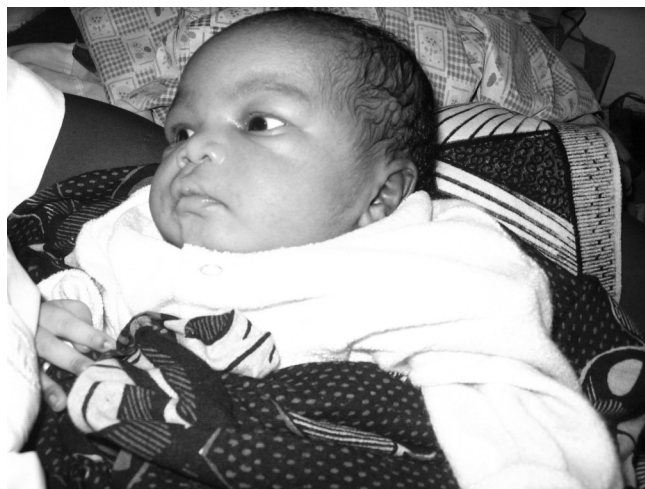
The deacons from Grace Church have contributed \$400 to buy food and the deacons from Bethel Church \$200. Pastor Tembo has expressed appreciation for this help but tells us the need is much greater. He is asking if we might send additional help. This need has been shared with the deacons of several churches.

Now is the time for planning another visit to Malawi. Pastor John Tinsley is not able to go this summer with the wedding of his son in August. The Rev. Doug Clawson, Associate General Secretary of the Foreign Missions Committee, is interested in going but this will have to be after the General Assembly. The dates we are looking at would be July 24 to August 11. I would appreciate your prayers for this as we make our plans.

I am grateful for your support for my ministry in this, both the prayers and the financial support. My desire is that this become a ministry of the presbytery and the denomination.

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## ***Laura Grace Nachonie***



Born on November 12th, 2007 to Phillip & Emily Nachonie.



Proclaiming the  
Excellencies of our  
Lord Jesus Christ.

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of Grace OPC

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★ Did you know that Richard Cameron was born in Falkland in the shire of Fife in Scotland in 1648?

★ Did you know that he eventually became a school teacher in that area?

★ That he began to see the error in the Episcopalian church that England made the state religion and began attending meetings of the “Covenanters” who were reforming the church at that time and were much persecuted?

★ He was encouraged to join the ministry of this group and was licensed soon afterwards?

★ Prominent authorities pressured him into agreeing not to talk against the established church to which he eventually agreed and went to Holland where he prayed fervently over the spiritual state of Scotland?

★ That he returned in 1680 and found two like-minded men to preach around the country as well?

★ That the authorities put a price of 500 marks on his head?

★ Did You Know that this section on Richard Cameron will be continued in the next Reflections?

*Info found in The Scots Worthies written by John Howie, and <http://chi.gospelcom.net/DAILYF/2001/07/daily-07-22-2001.shtml>*

## Taco Dinner & Game Night

Everyone's invited to a Taco Dinner & Game night on Friday, February 29th, at 6:30 p.m. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. Please bring a taco ingredient *plus* a dessert or drink. Bring a couple of games as well if you have some favorites!

