

# REFLECTIONS

Grace OPC

## ARE YOU HUNGRY?

*By Pastor Brian De Jong*

We live in a truly remarkable society. At almost any time of day or night, you can find something to eat. Restaurants and grocery stores stay open around the clock, providing whatever you crave whenever you crave it. It is truly hard to go hungry living in America today!

Hunger is one of the most basic impulses known to mankind, and one of the most demanding urges we feel. When you are hungry, your whole being works tirelessly to satisfy the desire for nourishment. It dominates your thoughts and directs your actions until the need has been met.

What is true of our physical bodies is also true of our souls. In Matthew 5:6 Jesus said, *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”* The Savior is obviously not speaking of a physical hunger for earthly food. He is addressing those who have spiritual hunger – a hunger and thirst for righteousness. Those who possess such soul hunger are “blessed” and will be satisfied, Jesus says.

So ask yourself this: Am I hungering and thirsting for spiritual nourishment? Do I crave spiritual things like I crave physical food and drink? Do I have an appetite for the things of God?

One aspect of “soul hunger” is the yearning for a closer relationship to God. The more we know about Him, the more we want to know Him personally. Our spirits yearn for the living God and for closeness to Him. That is why the

Psalmist could say, *“But as for me, the nearness of God is my good; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge.”* Do you feel the strong urge for a closer relationship with God? Are you hungry for Christ?

Another part of this hunger is the urgent interest in reading God’s word. Though Bible reading has fallen on hard times in modern America, it is still the main means of grace by which God fills us with the heavenly manna. Though few American Christians would think of skipping breakfast or lunch, they will go for days, weeks, and even months without cracking the cover on their Bible.

In Psalm 81:10 God issues a good-faith offer to His people: *“I, the LORD, am your God, Who brought you up from the land of Egypt; Open your mouth wide and I will fill it.”* Sadly, the Israelites of old refused God’s word and would not listen to His voice. Do you personally hunger after the Bible? Is your mouth open wide to receive the nourishment that God’s word provides?

Finally, are you hungry enough to attend to the preaching of the word and the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper whenever it is offered? The Lord of hosts has spread a lavish banquet for His people – the feast has been prepared and your Lord bids you to come and eat – eat of His preached word and of His sacrament. They are set out for your nourishment and growth in grace. Do you hunger after the corporate worship services of God’s church? Come, for the sumptuous meal is ready!



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### Mnemonics...

- *Missionary Murray Uomoto Visit, 27th*
- *Session Meeting, 12th*

# “Lovest Thou Me?”

by J. C. Ryle

## “Lovest thou Me?”—John 11:16

THE question which heads this paper was addressed by Christ to the Apostle Peter. A more important question could not be asked. Nineteen hundred years have passed away since the words were spoken. But to this very day the inquiry is most searching and useful.

A disposition to love somebody is one of the commonest feelings which God has implanted in human nature. Too often, unhappily, people set their affection on unworthy objects. I want this day to claim a place for Him who alone is worthy of all our hearts' best feelings. I want men to give some of their love to that Divine Person who loved us, and gave Himself for us. In all their loving, I would have them not forget TO LOVE CHRIST.

Suffer me to press this mighty subject upon the attention of every reader of this paper. This is no matter for mere enthusiasts and fanatics. It deserves the consideration of every reasonable Christian who believes the Bible. Our very salvation is bound up with it. Life or death, heaven or hell, depend on our ability to answer the simple question “Do you love Christ?”...

...Ask him by what pattern he tries to frame his life, and he will tell you that it is the example of Christ. But, beside all this, there is one thing in a true Christian which is eminently peculiar to him. That thing is *love* to Christ. Knowledge, faith, hope, reverence, obedience, are all marked features in a true Christian's character. But his picture would be very imperfect if you omitted his “love” to his Divine Master. He not only knows, trusts, and obeys. He goes further than this—he loves.

This peculiar mark of a true Christian is one which we find mentioned several times in the Bible. “Faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ” is an expression which many Christians are familiar with. Let it never be forgotten that love is mentioned by the Holy Ghost in almost as strong terms as faith. Great as the danger is of him “that believeth not,” the danger of him that “loveth not” is equally great. Not believing and not loving are both steps to everlasting ruin...

Would you know the secret of this peculiar feeling towards Christ which distinguishes the true Christian? You have it in the words of St. John, “We love Him because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:19) That text, no doubt, applies specially to God the Father. But it is no less true of God the Son.

A true Christian loves Christ for all He *has done* for him. He has suffered in his stead, and died for him on the cross. He has redeemed him from the guilt, the power, and the consequences of sin, by His blood. He has called him by His Spirit to self-knowledge, repentance, faith, hope, and holiness. He has forgiven all his many sins and blotted them out. He has freed him from the captivity of the world, the flesh, and the devil. He has taken him from the brink of hell, placed him in the narrow way, and set his face toward heaven. He has given him light instead of darkness, peace of conscience instead of uneasiness, hope instead of uncertainty, life instead of death. Can you wonder that the true Christian loves Christ?

And he loves Him besides, for all that He is *still doing*. He feels that He is daily washing away his many shortcomings and infirmities, and pleading his soul's cause before God. He is daily supplying all the needs of his soul, and providing him with an hourly provision of mercy and grace. He is daily leading him by His Spirit to a city of habitation, bearing with him when he is weak and ignorant, raising him up when he stumbles and falls, protecting him against his many enemies, preparing an eternal home for him in heaven. Can you wonder that the true Christian loves Christ?

Does the debtor in jail love the friend who unexpectedly and undeservedly pays all his debts, supplies him with fresh capital, and takes him into partnership with himself? Does the prisoner in war love the man who at the risk of his own life breaks through the enemy's lines, rescues him, and sets him free? Does the drowning sailor love the man who plunges into the sea, dives after him, catches him by the hair of his head, and by a mighty effort saves him from a watery grave? A very child can answer such questions as these. Just in the same way, and upon the same principles, a true Christian loves Jesus Christ...

# Comments on Finance

by Joel Moody

General Fund receipts for August totaled \$15,986.06 as compared to the budget of \$15,510.10, while General Fund disbursements for August totaled \$11,032.17. August year to date General Fund receipts totaled \$99,773.82 as compared to the budget of \$108,571.30 (a shortfall of \$8,797.48), while August year to date disbursements of \$93,938.13 were \$14,633.17 below budget. Through the end of August, the General Fund has increased by \$6,205.50. The increase in the General Fund was due to reduced disbursements. General Fund receipts through August were 3.1% above last year's total, while disbursements were 0.4% below last year.

Benevolence Fund Receipts for August totaled \$1,348.00 as compared to the budget of \$1,479.17. Year to date benevolence receipts through August totaled \$11,561.57, while the budget amount was \$11,833.33 (a shortfall of 271.76). Each month, \$475.00 is sent to Worldwide Outreach for the General Missions outreach of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. In addition, \$200.00 is sent each month to the Midwest Presbytery's Church Extension Committee. During August \$600.00 was directed to Middle East Reformed Fellowship. During

October, \$900.00 is scheduled to be sent to Sheboygan County Christian High School and \$600.00 to Pine Haven.

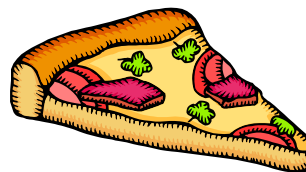
Giving for the Capital Expansion Project through August has reached 78.4% of the projected amount. The outstanding Mortgage and Promissory Notes balance was \$158,209.44 as of the end of August 2010.

In June of this year, the Church's Mortgage Note was converted into a 6.00% 5 year loan balance with a balloon payment due at maturity. The Note that was converted was a 3 year loan with a 5.75% rate with a balloon at maturity. The Finance Committee for the Expansion Project felt it prudent to lock in a known interest rate for a slightly higher interest rate and a longer term rather than be at risk for a higher rate in fall of 2011 when the loan would otherwise have been due. The monthly payment stayed the same at \$2,076.00 per month. Assuming payments are made as scheduled, the amount due at maturity would be approximately \$17,000.

In addition to the Mortgage, there are promissory notes owed by the Church and held by individuals totaling \$53,000. These notes have staggered maturity dates on them and pay 4.3% interest for the current year.

## Pine Haven at Pizza Ranch

Pine Haven Women's Auxiliary will be serving at the Pizza Ranch in Oostburg, WI on Monday, October 18th from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. We would appreciate your coming & letting us serve you and help us raise money for our projects to benefit the residents of Pine Haven Christian Home.



# October Birthdays



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## Directory Correction

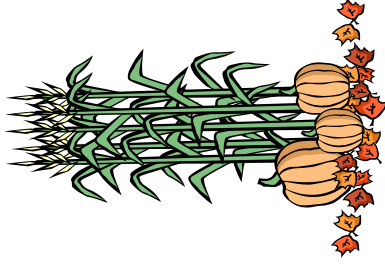




Grace OPC

# October 2010

*Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	7	8	9
10 Missions Sunday	11 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. <i>Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m.</i> Theology Class, 3:30 p.m.	12 Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	13 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	14	15	16
17 Lunch Potluck	18 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. <i>Pine Haven at Pizza Ranch,</i> 5-8 p.m.	19	20 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	21	22	23
24	25 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. <i>Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m.</i> Theology Class, 3:30 p.m.	26	27 Visit from Missionary Murray Uomoto, 7:00 p.m.	28	29	30
31 Lord's Supper, (p.m.)						

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# Camp Westminster—and Fossils?!

by Don & Pam Schlerntizauer

This is the third year Don and I have attended Camp Westminster at the Green Lake Conference Center in Central WI, during the first week of August. The speaker this year was Pastor Craig Troxel from the Wheaton church, who presented an excellent exposition of the Lord's Prayer during the morning and evening sessions. The climax of the week's teaching came unexpectedly when Pastor Troxel was called back to Wheaton to minister to a family in his church whose teenage daughter had just committed suicide. This was a sudden reminder of the seriousness of the spiritual battle we fight, and the importance of undergirding everything with prayer. When he returned for the final session on Thursday evening, there was a moving time of prayer for this family and for the church as they minister to them. During free time in the afternoons there was a range of activities for the campers, and we enjoyed riding our bicycles around the scenic campgrounds and also meeting with Bob and Debbie Boss, Ivan and Carla De Master and the De Jong family, who all attended some of the sessions. We also visited with new and old friends we had met from previous years.

An unanticipated blessing from this year's camp was becoming acquainted with Greg and Julie Machak of the New Lenox church, who invited us to their home to collect fossils near Joliet, IL, in the fossil-rich strip pits of that area. These pits are now filled with water, and housing developments have grown up around them. The Machaks live in one such development and have collected many fossils, some of which they have donated to the Creation Museum in the greater Cincinnati area. The fossils are encased in potato shaped rocks, which must be cracked open to expose them.

On a beautiful, if slightly cool, Saturday Labor Day weekend, we along with our daughter, Lori, took a plunge into the waters of the pit near the Machak's home to try our hand at fossil collecting.

Julie manned the pontoon boat, while we squeezed into wet suits, flippers and snorkels for the hunt. We were accompanied by the Machak's dog, Johann Sebastian Dach, who floated in his own little boat with a flag on it a long side his master where the rocks were deposited. Only Greg and Don actually found a few fossils along the shallow bank, but we enjoyed a great experience with our new friends and were pleased to take home with us those few as a souvenir of our adventure.



*Photo: Pam S. getting in the water in order to snorkel for fossils. This "white" plastic box on the right with a flag contains the dachshund "Dach" and as well serves as a repository for the fossil rocks collected. (Julie Machak Lori, & Don S. are on the pontoon boat.)*

# Grace OPC Reformation Conference

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Grace OPC Reformation Conference will be held on November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Tony Curto will be our speaker. The schedule will be as follows:

## *Saturday morning:*

- Session 1: Christ as Covenant Leader  
(9:00-10:15)  
Session 2: The Church as Covenant Agent  
(10:30-11:45)

## *Saturday night:*

Harvest Home Supper – Report on Ethiopia

## *Morning Worship Service:*

Session 3: The Instrument of Evangelism  
(preaching ) & the Goal of Evangelism  
(holiness)

## *Evening Worship Service:*

Session 4: The Glory of God as the Motive  
of Mission



## *Alzheimer's Conference*

The Alzheimer's Association is planning the Sheboygan County Caregiver Conference for those who provide care family or professional to anyone suffering from some form of dementia. It will be held, Thursday, November 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Acuity Insurance. Registration fee is \$5.00 for two keynote speakers and several breakout sessions. Lunch is included and in-home respite care is available. For more detail please contact Ginny Nyhuis at 920-838-1311.



# De Masters in Stillwater, MN

*from the De Masters*

God continues to bless Covenant OPC in Hammond WI with unity, excitement in the new building, and encouragement one of another. Three new people are starting membership class and a family of 7 is continuing their classes, begun previously. Because some of the members live a distance away, including us, we tend to stay long after the worship service just for the fellowship and often have lunch there, planned or unplanned. When Ivan is preaching in EauClaire the first Sunday of the month, we stay at the church for lunch because it is another 50 miles drive. We also stay when he has the nursing home service because we are near and it is at 1:30.

Speaking of the nursing home, we visited 2 of the members of the former UCC who are here. They are sharp thinkers in their 90s and told us a lot of history of the church. It reminded me of our times of visiting Mom. We also visited Bev in her own home, another UCC member, who lives a block away from the church. Another couple has been visiting and likes the church and the worship service and all the kids.

We hear from the Kuhfusses regularly. They

have a heavy teaching load, Barb with children and Kim and David with college students. Deb- their daughter (whose pregnancy is normal, praise the Lord) and Ryan- her husband, will visit them this week, flying from their mission station elsewhere in China.

Carla continues going with Katie and Pat from Mission OPC, St. Paul, to the Japanese quilting classes on Fridays and English classes on Mondays. Mission OPC has offered \$240,000 (thanks for the help given from others in the OPC) for the building they are in and will know in 6-8 weeks if their offer is good. Two other groups have made offers too.

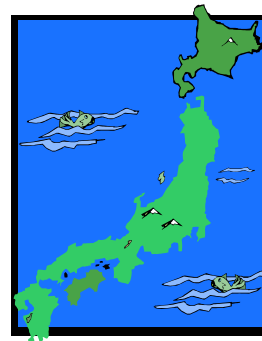
We went on a cruise on the Mississippi for 2 hours, we had dinner with Ivan's brother and his wife, Ivan went to a Twins game (had to buy the ticket 2 weeks ahead), and Carla painted a picture of Bailou Mountain in Tianchi, China on the border of China and North Korea, near where the Kuhfusses are.

We hope to see many of you in October as we have several appointments to keep then. We have e mail and a phone

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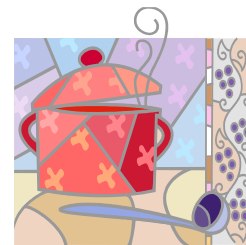
## *Missionary Murray Uomoto Visit*

OPC Missionary Murray Uomoto will be coming to Grace Church on Wednesday evening, October 27th. Come hear a report of his ministry in Sendai, Japan at 7:00 p.m. This will be in place of the regular prayer meeting study.





## Cheesy Corn Chowder



- ★ 6 bacon strips, chopped
- ★ 3/4 cup chopped onion

Cook in a large pot over medium heat, until onion is tender.

- ★ 2 1/2 cup water
- ★ 2 1/2 cup cubed, peeled, potatoes
- ★ 2 cups sliced carrots
- ★ 2 teaspoons chicken bouillon granules

Add to onions & bacon, bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover & simmer until veggies are tender– 15-20 minutes.

- ★ 3 cans (11 oz.) each gold & white corn, drained
- ★ 1/2 teaspoon pepper

Stir in corn & pepper.

- ★ 7 Tablespoons all-purpose flour
- ★ 5 cups milk or 1/2 & 1/2 cream

Whisk together in large bowl. Stir into soup. Cook & stir until soup thickens. Reduce heat.

- ★ 3 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- ★ 1 cup Velveeta, cubed

Add to soup; cook & stir until cheese melt.

*Samantha Nyhof*

“The eyes  
of all look  
to You,  
And You  
give them  
their food  
in due  
time.  
You open  
Your hand  
And  
satisfy the  
desire of  
every  
living  
thing.”



Showing forth the  
excellencies of Jesus  
Christ

Grace OPC

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★ Did you know that John Knox started to more publically speak forth his faith in 1543?

★ Did you know that starting around this time he protected George Wishart, a preacher also in Scotland?

★ That after a while Knox gradually became more persecuted for his faith so he decided to make for a castle that had been taken over by a

group of nobles who were friendly to him?

★ That when the castle was given up in 1547, Knox ended up, “as an oarsman in the French galleys.”

★ That he got away in 1549 and made it to England where he served as a minister?

★ That when Queen Mary, a Catholic, came to the throne in 1553, Knox went to Geneva in Switzerland to preach?

★ That in 1560, Parliament declared Scotland Protestant & Knox was there to help things along?

★ That after this, another Mary, Queen of Scots, came and attempted to push Catholicism in Scotland and Knox was bold in the defense of the gospel when threatened by her?

★ Did you know that after this persecution died down, Knox preached until November 9, 1572, 15 days before his death?

*Information found at <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/knox>*

# Fall Work Day

Your help is needed!!!! Come join us for Fall Work Day on Saturday, October 9th starting at 8:00 a.m. Whether you like to work outside or stay inside, there are many different projects that need your help! Come enjoy a fall day by helping us out!

