

# REFLECTIONS

The Monthly Newsletter of Grace OPC

## THE UNKNOWN GOD

*By Pastor Brian De Jong*

When Paul entered Ephesus for the first time, he ran into a strange group of ‘converts.’ These twelve men had heard some form of primitive preaching, and had received baptism. Paul asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” Their response is telling: They said to him, “No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.”

Such a response could conceivably be offered by modern Reformed Christians. “Did you reformed folk receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” **We have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit!**

There are several reasons why good Presbyterians have such a paltry knowledge of the Holy Spirit. To some extent it can be put down to an irrational fear of pentacostalism and “charismania.” There exists a strange fear that if we think too much or talk too openly about the Spirit, we’ll be accused of being closet charismatics. We sometimes act as if the Holy Spirit were the exclusive property of Pentacostal and charismatic churches, and that it is somehow “unreformed” to be “Spirit-filled and Spirit-led.”

Another reason for our embarrassing ignorance is a lack of attention to the deep things of Scripture. Too much of our Bible reading skates across the surface, without diving to the depths of Scriptural truth. By taking such a superficial approach, we content ourselves

with a moralistic Christianity that says, “Be good boys and girls, and God will give you treats!” Were we to mine the deep veins of Scriptural gold, our lack of knowledge of the Spirit could be fully remedied.



There is also a common temptation among American Christians toward “do-it-yourself-religion.” This theology prefers to pull on its own bootstraps rather than earnestly seek the presence and power of the Holy Ghost. We are a fiercely independent lot, and don’t want to depend upon (or submit to) anyone – not even the third person of the Trinity.

And then there are our theologians. Too many of our systematicians have emphasized Theology Proper (the study of God) and Christology (the study of Christ) to the exclusion of Pneumatology (the study of the Spirit). Perusing some of my favorite Systematic Theology texts, I find precious little emphasis on the person and work of the Spirit.

Starting in September, we will attempt to fill the void and to overcome the deficit. Our Wednesday night prayer meeting will begin a major study of the doctrine, the person and the work of the Holy Spirit of God, and I think that everyone in our congregation would benefit greatly from attending. Members of every age will be blessed by participating in this ‘hour of power.’ Let us pray that the Holy Spirit Himself will prosper this holy undertaking! I hope to see you all there!

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September 2009

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### Mnemonics...

- *Hayride & Bonfire, 11th*
- *Church Camp-Out, 25th*



# Hear, Obey, Teach

## Hear, Obey, Teach Continued...


Hear, Obey, Teach Concluded...

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# Hayride & Bonfire

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Hayride & Bonfire at the Gartman home which will be held on September 11th!





*2009 OPC  
Ladies Conference*

*Saturday  
September 26, 2009  
from  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.*



*Hosted by:  
Grace OPC Church  
1510 Greenbrook Blvd.  
Hanover Park, IL*

*Guest Speaker:  
Pastor Chris Sandoval*

*Topic  
"3 4 Me: The Substitutionary  
Work of Christ for His People"*



# September Birthdays



*Happy Birthday!!!*

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## De Masters in Maine

*From the De Masters*

We enjoyed talking with many of you and catching up on the blessings God is giving Grace Church in Sheboygan. Toni Barthels keeps us posted on recent news, via bulletin and inserts. Thanks!

Danny and Skye Patterson and their family of five children will be arriving from Battle Mountain NV on August 27 for almost a week to visit the congregation. He will preach on Sunday, August 30. Please pray for Second Parish and the Patterson's as they consider the possibility of a call. Danny was here before for 3 days to meet with the search committee with positive results, so far. The congregational meeting is set for September 9.

Sunday was another joint service with the Sudanese at 2, so we headed this time to Dover, NH to visit the Bible study in the Holmlund home there. Morning worship is in a school with around 50-60 attending. It was good to see some (15) of the congregation in action. One big need is men of elder qualifications. After the study by Pastor Holmlund on Joel, Dariusz Brycko, member of Redeemer OPC, Ada, MI, presented the ministry in Poland. Dariusz is working on translating reformed works into Polish. His presentation was fascinating, with the history of the reformed church in this catholic country

up to the present. He is a good friend of the pastor, having gone to Calvin Seminary at the same time.

On a lighter note, we "helped" Wes Willink check, bait, and take pictures of 25 of his 250 lobster traps on Monday. He paid us in lobsters! Delicious! Wes taught biology in high school until retirement and then was asked to teach part time in a Christian college. Now he is almost full time again. Last Friday we were able to get to Monmouth Theater to see Twelfth Night, thanks to tickets given by a couple from the church. It was excellent! Many professionals are in the cast, having a paid vacation in Maine for the whole summer. Our "dinner out" in the town was memorable too, as we ordered sandwiches where one pays for gas in a "quik trip" type "restaurant." Chairs were taken from a pile for us to sit on. This was the better of the two choices we had.

This week we are invited to Art and Charlotte Kushcke's summer home. Their 2 sons are members of Second Parish. I taught at Philmont with Charlotte 48 years ago and had John, one of these sons, in my art class. He is having an art show and sale of pottery and watercolors in his parents' home. Art Kushcke was librarian at Westminster Seminary when Ivan was attending there.



Grace OPC

# September 2009

*Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ*



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	3	4	5 Men's Study, 7:30 a.m.
6	7 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	8 Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m. <i>Session Meeting,</i> 6:30 p.m.	9 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	10	11 Hayride & Bonfire at Gartman's	12
13 Missions Sunday	14 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	15	16 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	17	18 Presbytery	19 Presbytery
20	21 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	22 Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m.	23 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	24	25 Church Camp-Out	26
27 Lord's Supper, (a.m.)	28 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	29	30 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.			

# Bible Soccer Camp

By Kristin Berenschot

During the week of June 22-26 the first Bible Soccer Camp for children 4<sup>th</sup> grade through 7<sup>th</sup> grade was held in Cicero, IL. Cicero is a primarily Hispanic community minutes away from downtown Chicago.

Rev. Chris Sandoval of the OPC outreach in Cicero along with Covenant OPC of Orland Park, IL organized the effort while many high school, college and older adults from areas of Michigan and the Chicagoland area volunteered. Each morning, the volunteer group assembled at the Cicero park district soccer field at 8:15 a.m. to set up tents, chairs, snacks and refreshments. Children clad in soccer gear arrived at 9:00 to begin learning soccer skills, practicing drills and scrimmaging. This part of the camp was led by Jose Dominguez, Trinity Christian College men's soccer coach along with Trinity men's and women's soccer players. The children looked like they were learning a lot and having a great time. The number of children attending was around 40 each day while some parents also stayed and observed. Each adult volunteer was paired with 3-4 kids whom they supervised, got to know and assist if they became too warm.

The most important part of the morning was when the large group was divided into two smaller groups- one group of younger children and one

group of older children. The first group would walk over to the community center down the street with Rev. Sandoval and other volunteers while the other group continued playing soccer. This was the time for the Bible lesson. Each day's lesson contained review from other days and then introduced something new. Students learned about coach Holy Spirit who coaches us in life, how Jesus is a perfect player and how He has taken away our sin or our "red card." I found it to be a really neat idea to intertwine soccer terms to explain the Gospel message. The students listened intently and many raised their hands to ask thoughtful questions.



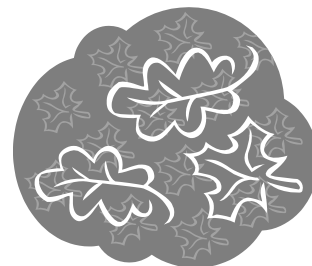
Near the end of the morning, all kids gathered together for prayer and the opportunity to receive awards for good sportsmanship and participation. Kids ate free lunches provided by the community center and left around 12:30. On Friday evening June 26, all family and community members were invited to attend a soccer game between campers and volunteers and meet Rev. Sandoval.

Please pray that the students who attended the camp will remember what they have heard and learned and share with their parents. Also, pray for Chris Sandoval as he lives and ministers to many in the Cicero area that he would be encouraged and able to speak with many families who participated in the camp.

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# Fall Festival

The Pine Haven Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, September 12th at Pine Haven Christian Home.





## Pizza

- ★ 2 1/4-3 3/4 cups flour (white or wheat)
- ★ 1 Tbsp. active dry yeast
- ★ 1 cup warm water (105° -115° )
- ★ 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- ★ 1 tsp. salt

Measure out 1 1/4 cups of the flour, and the full amount of the yeast and the salt. Add the warm water and olive oil. Beat on low speed for 30 seconds to mix and then beat on high speed for 3 minutes.

Stir in most of remaining flour, then place on a floured surface and begin to knead for 6-8 minutes or until the dough is smooth and elastic. Use only as much flour as is necessary.

Cover and let sit for 10 minutes. Roll out dough on stone or pizza pan sprinkled with cornmeal before if desired, turning up edges. Before baking, poke with fork and brush with olive oil. Heat oven as hot as possible (550° or hotter, if possible.) Wait till oven is fully heated. Pre-bake your crust for 3 minutes (no more or else it becomes a burnt offering).

Pull out of the oven and put on your sauce, cheese and toppings. Put back in the oven for 9 to 10 minutes, but watch carefully. Pull out when cheese is turning light brown on top. Let cool for a few minutes before cutting and serving.

The high heat causes a chemical reaction that makes the cheese stringy/chewy, like you get from most pizza restaurants. Lower baking temperatures will leave the cheese kind of wimpy and not stringy/chewy.

Be careful you don't burn your mouth by eating too quickly out of the oven. The pizza is HOT!



“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?”

*Pastor Brian DeJong*



Proclaiming the  
Excellencies of our  
Lord Jesus Christ.

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of Grace OPC

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★ Did you know that the Reformation influenced the Netherlands?

★ Did you know that even before Luther posted his 95 Theses, the truth of justification by faith alone was heard in the land, especially through John of Wessel?

★ Did you know that Luther's ideas quickly spread into the area, although the actual reforma-

tion was not very unified in the area?

★ Did you know that as in the previous did you know about the Reformation in France, when Calvin's ideas came, they brought unity to the Reformation in the Netherlands?

★ Did you know that Calvin's *Institutes*, published in 1536 made an impression on the people and it was in 1550 that a visible difference was being made and students switched from going to "Luther's University in Wittenburg" to study to going to Geneva?

★ Did you know that the *Belgic Confession* was written during this time by Guido De Brés?

★ That around the same time Dathenus translated the *Heidelberg Catechism* from German and put together a psalter?

★ That the Reformation did not progress without some strong opposition and persecution from the ruler of the land, Charles V?

★ That church meetings, or synods had to be held in nearby Germany for safety in 1571?

*Taken from B.K. Kuiper, The Church in History (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1951), 268-269.*

# Church Camp-Out

Everyone is invited to a  
**CHURCH CAMP-OUT**  
at Greenbush Group Camp in  
Kettle Moraine on Friday,  
September 25th.

