

# THE CORNERSTONE CONNECTION

CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

## Pastor Scott's Perspective – “Developing Responsible Decision-Makers”

When I was the pastor of smaller churches – including here at Cornerstone several years ago – I was accustomed to being a part of nearly every decision in the church. I attended most of the committee and board meetings. Though I did not “control” the decisions, I was a part of the decision-making process with significant input. As churches grow, the lead pastor must adjust – or else he will either stifle growth and leadership development – or else run himself into the ground with total exhaustion.

A sound leadership principle is: **Give away responsibilities, not just tasks.** And this advice to pastors: *When you trust your team, it ushers in the opportunity for greatness. If everything has to cross your desk, you will only ever lead a small organization (because your desk isn't that big). Make fewer decisions every year. And get people on your team who make better decisions than you do.*

Some pastors and churches make the mistake of giving people tasks to do without giving the responsibility and authority to go along with the assignment. In essence their approach is: *“You people do all the grunt work of developing a plan, and then we'll pick it apart and do what we want to do.”* That is a great way to diminish the pool of future volunteers and leaders in a church.

A basic decision all pastors and leaders (and members) must make is this: *Do I want to have my way in every decision – or do I want to develop and multiply leaders in the church?* **The price for developing leaders is to give them the freedom to lead and occasionally to make mistakes and often to do things differently than I would.** Just as parents need to learn to let go of control as their children grow older, so also church leaders and members need to learn to let go of control as churches grow larger.

### Do I want to have my way in every decision – or do I want to develop and multiply leaders

In the midst of many other changes coming in the next few months (new youth pastor, multi-site expansion into DeWitt, sanctuary upgrade, etc.) this underlying significant change also comes with growth: *more and more of our church's direction and decisions will be determined by church leadership and fewer will be voted on at congregational meetings.* This will be an uncomfortable shift for some of our long-time members who have been an important part of Cornerstone since we were a church of 150. But we are no longer a church of 150. *And one of the strategic transitions churches must make in order to break through growth barriers is to transition from a “small-church mindset” to a “larger-church mindset.”* **Larger churches select strong, capable, godly leaders, pray for those leaders, and then let those leaders lead.** *Cornerstone is blessed with such leaders, and they are leading our church well.*

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We are past the point where the church body will decide the color of the carpeting at a congregational business meeting. *(And hopefully our spiritual maturity is beyond the point of arguing or complaining or pouting over such non-essential matters.)*

Our church constitution requires a quorum and membership vote on the following: *Amendments to the Constitution; Budget approval; Purchase or sale of real property; Borrowing of money; Calling of pastoral staff; Confirmation of Deacon Board Appointment.* We will continue to follow the Constitution on these matters. In the past, we voted on other matters beyond what the Constitution required. We will be doing less of that in the future. Instead, we will be relying more on leaders and smaller groups of people to do the hard work of investing hours and hours in meetings, studying, researching, discussing,

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Upcoming Events

- May 2 12:30 pm Ladies Lunch at Pizza Ranch, Bett.
- 7:00 pm National Day of Prayer Service in sanctuary
- May 4 6:30 pm Ladies Night Out, Whisk Away Café, DeWitt
- May 5 8:15 am Morning Worship followed by SERVE Fest until 11:30, pizza in ROCK following
- May 12 Mother's Day Nurse Office Open AM Pastor Mark preaches
- May 15 7:00 pm NSHS Baccalaureate at Cornerstone
- May 17 5:30 pm No Limits Pizza & Movie Night
- 6:30 pm Trivia Night for Nass' Adoption/ROCK
- May 18 7:00 am Trustees
- May 19 Pentecost Sunday Honor Grads
- 5:00 pm DeWitt Info Mtg.
- 6:00 pm Experiencing God
- May 21 5:30-9 pm CLASS 101 Blueprint for Membership
- May 24-27 Family Retreat at Pine Lake Christian Center, Eldora, IA
- May 26 Nurse Office Open
- May 28 7:00 pm Moldova Information Mtg.
- 7:30 pm Youth Purpose Team
- May 30 7:00 pm Missions Meeting

praying, planning – and making decisions. We will entrust significant responsibility to them and trust them to make good and wise decisions. We will pray for them. We will humbly acknowledge that those who invest hours and hours in this decision-making process are usually in a better position to make good decisions than people who show up at business meetings having opinions but having devoted little time to specialized study, discussion and prayer.

Does this mean that 10-12 men will be making all the decisions from now on without input from others? No. Actually, much of the decision-making will be delegated to the leaders and members who are most involved in that particular area of ministry. **And good leaders listen to wise counsel.** Even though they are empowered to make decisions, they take the time to get input as well as to listen to God speaking to them personally. And our church communication guidelines give opportunity for members to express concerns they may have about ministries or leaders.

Leaders making decisions and delegating decision-making responsibility is neither unbiblical nor without precedent in the life of our church. Biblically, the relevant Scriptures include Acts 6:1-7; Acts 14:21-25; Acts 20:28; I Thessalonians 5:12-13; I Timothy 3:1-13; I Timothy 5:17-20; Titus 1:5-9; Hebrews 13:17; I Peter 5:1-4. To my knowledge, there are no verses requiring leaders to take decisions to the congregation for a vote, but there are several Scriptures authorizing leaders to lead and shepherd and oversee and even “rule” or “direct the affairs of the church” – while instructing members to “respect,” “obey” and “submit” to their leaders. (And leaders will give an account of their teaching and leadership to the Head of the church, the Lord Jesus Christ.)

And just as the apostles delegated significant leadership responsibility (and decision-making authority) to seven godly and well-qualified leaders to manage a church conflict and oversee the important ministry of the daily distribution of food to widows and the needy, so also wise church leaders today delegate responsibility (and decision-making authority) to teams that oversee ministries (and funds) and make decisions that will impact the entire church body.

For example, for years the missions committee has overseen a mission budget that now exceeds \$100,000 a year. Yes, the total mission budget is approved by the Deacons & Trustees and included in the overall budget voted on by the church body. But in practical reality, a group of 6-8 people decide how over \$100,000 will be allocated (in addition to deciding how mission surplus funds are used without consulting the church membership). **This is as it should be!** *The missions committee is the best-qualified group in our church and invests*

## Financial Report

Giving to the General Fund (church budget) has averaged \$12,811 per Sunday in April. The budget for the FY 2013-2014 (approved at annual meeting on Apr. 28th) is \$13,916.93 per Sunday.

Giving to the Capital Improvements Fund has totaled \$150.00.

*Thank you and God bless you for support of the Lord's work.*

*the most time and prayer in these decisions – so it is appropriate that the church body should trust their decisions and management of a large budget.*

This will be the pattern for the future. Although the Deacon Board will continue to provide oversight of all church ministries and direction, different groups of people will be given responsibility for different ministries (and different parts of the budget). With significant tasks and responsibilities come significant decision-making authority (and sometimes financial oversight). This is vital to the task of developing and multiplying leaders. Sometimes mistakes will be made as newer leaders learn how to lead. Sometimes decisions will be made that not all agree with. Most mistakes are not irreparable. Most disagreements are just differences of opinion or preferences. Our spiritual unity runs deeper than that.

Morale among volunteers is enhanced when they are given significant responsibilities and their decisions are respected. Morale among volunteers is damaged when they spend hours upon hours in making plans and decisions – and then some people in a business meeting who have not invested that time and prayer want to pick apart those decisions to suit their opinions and preferences.

I am still adjusting to the new reality of significant decisions being made in our church body apart from my direct input. *But just as I have learned to let my daughters and their husbands make their own decisions under God's guidance – a necessary part of the maturity process for them – so also I am learning to allow other (often younger) church leaders and teams to make decisions under God's guidance – a necessary part of the maturity process for them.* And unless they do something outrageous or unbiblical – my default mode is to encourage them, support their growth by giving them experience in decision-making, and defend them to any critics they might have. We have many quality leaders and servants in our church body. Many of them are young but with great potential (I was 26 when I began my first pastoral ministry in Ely, MN). I won't agree with everything they do – but I want them to know that I trust them and I have their back.

*Do I want to have my way in every decision – or do I want to develop and multiply leaders in the church? Having my way is not essential to Cornerstone thriving for years to come – but encouraging, developing and multiplying leaders is essential to Cornerstone's future health and growth and fruitfulness. When you see younger leaders in our church working hard and doing their best to follow God's will and fulfill the vision – **encourage them!***

(submitted 4/25/13)

## CLASS 101 Blueprint for Membership

**CLASS 101-Blueprint for Membership** is being offered Tuesday, May 21st beginning at 5:30 pm

If you are interested in learning more about Cornerstone or being baptized and/or a member, please let Pastor Mark know (563.285.8080 or zev4cbc@gmail.com)

A free pizza meal is included.

## A Word From Pastor Mark

A lot has happened in the last few months in our church and my life. Last fall we started two services and it has been a great hit. We now have flexibility with our schedules to choose a service to attend. And we have freedom to help serve without missing a worship service.

This Sunday, a new chapter began. We are now going to be one church in two locations. With God's leadership, power and blessing we will be Cornerstone Baptist Church Eldridge and Cornerstone Baptist Church DeWitt. This is a huge step in extending God's vision for Cornerstone outside the NS area.

My life has also changed dramatically. God moved in my heart through Perspectives and other avenues. He took my comfortable

heart- never-want-to-leave-Cornerstone Eldridge and made me open to change. My family is with me on this. We believe God has some great things in store for Cornerstone as a result of the church's obedience and **our** willingness to be uncomfortable ("our" includes those who choose to join us in this adventure).

There will be an informational meeting on Sunday, May 19th at 5:00 p.m. for anyone interested in learning more about how they can get involved in Cornerstone DeWitt. Following the meeting will be an Experiencing God service for the whole church where we will hear how God is at work in DeWitt. If you have any questions please let me know. (563.285.8080 or zev4cbc@gmail.com)

## VBS!! June 3rd-7th 8:45-11:30 am

**Grades: K-7th (fall 2013)**

**\* Nursery on up through pre-K for helper's children only.**

We are going back to the Wild West and gearing up for another fantastic Jesus filled VBS! We are opening registration May 1st online and through hand outs. If you would like some to hand out to your neighbors, schools, teammates or friends, please contact Sarah with the desired number of invites. We are also including blow pops with them.

There are so many places for you to serve and help that we can't even list them all, however, here are a few:

- **Salvation Room:** Be a part of the most amazing thing at VBS - leading other children, and youth helpers, to Christ in small groups, answer questions, pray for them and help show them the way to salvation. Time requirements: roughly 8:45-11am 3-5 days.
- **Helpers:** in small groups (with another leader) walking from station to station, no prep time. Just being friends and available to the kids - min. 3-5 days.
- **Station Helper:** assigned to a specific location, like games, to help assist the Station Leader.
- **Nursery Helper:** help 1-5 days in the nursery holding and loving on babies!
- **Pre-School & Pre-K Helper:** help 2-5 days with Station Leader with little children, learning about Jesus, blowing bubbles,

sidewalk chalk, bouncy houses and more.

- **Clean Up/Set Up Crew:** Helping decorate and tear down equipment
- **Greeter:** Perfect for someone who only has a small amount of time in the morning. Greet families as they come on in!
- **Prayer:** Either at home, in the prayer room or physically walking the hallways during VBS praying.
- **Snacks:** Provide snacks for children and leaders during VBS. Please contact Dee McGimpsey 285-8100.
- **Older Group Helper:** Help specifically with 6th & 7th graders on community service projects around town.
- **Decorations:** Wild West theme this year, so anything western you can gather for decorations would be appreciated!
- **Registration:** Help at beginning of each day for a little bit by checking children in.
- **VBS Follow Up Team:** Join the team that will help follow up with all the families that came in various ways.

These are the most immediate needs we have. If you can help even for part of the week, please email [sarah\\_hansel@mchsi.com](mailto:sarah_hansel@mchsi.com) or call Nick or Sarah 285-5530, otherwise, we will be contacting you. Please pray for children to be ready to hear and experience all God has for them this week and beyond. It's going to be a Rip Roarin' Time with Jesus!

## STEM Trip to SE Asia

Pastor Scott and Beth will be visiting their daughter, Emily, and her family in SE Asia (name of country withheld for security reasons) April 29 – May 13. Pastor Scott will be doing some teaching with an underground ethnic church. Both Scott and Beth will enjoy spending time with their grandkids whom they have not seen in 16 months. And they will have an opportunity to observe (and participate in?) workouts and classes at the gym operated by Mo and Emily.

This will be considered a STEM trip for Pastor Scott and a personal visit for Beth. If you would like to contribute to Pastor Scott's trip expenses, you may make your check payable to Cornerstone STEM with a memo "SE Asia."

Mo and Emily are living in the midst of an unreached people group where there are no known believers among that people group. Your prayers are vitally important so that a beachhead for the Gospel and the Kingdom may be established among this people group. And please remember in any emails or Facebook postings NEVER to mention the name of the country and the name of the family and the "m" word in the same communication.

## Moldova – Fall 2013

Announcing a Fall Moldova Medical Mission Trip! Dates are **Tuesday, September 24, through Thursday, October 3** (airfare pending, give or take a day or two).

**No medical background is required.** We will hire Moldovan doctors, but American medical professionals are certainly welcome to participate. We will share the gospel through hosting up to 5 free medical clinics in the villages, and those without a medical background will have opportunity to use their gifts / talents in other ways.

An **informational meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, May 28, at 7:00** in the church library.

If you have further questions, please contact me at 563-285-7285 or [bivstikk@netins.net](mailto:bivstikk@netins.net). **Deadline for joining the team: Sunday, June 30.**

## Pastor Tony's No Limits News

Well after several years of late nights working on Homework and all those band concerts, choir concerts, sporting activities and teenage drama of varying degrees, my little bear is about to graduate and go off to find her place in the world. And as most parents, the main thought that wakes me up at night "Is she ready?"

And the answer is "I really don't know".... If she is ready for the challenges facing her. But I do know she knows what is most important... she fully knows the GOSPEL. God Our Sins Paying Everyone Life. And with truth she is able to face the world. While that message is over 2,000 years old, it feels totally brand new. That truth is more relevant today than anything she will learn or could have been taught these years preparing her for life.

When you focus on the transformational truths of the gospel, you worship God louder as you sing His praises for redemption. Hurts will be healed from the inside out through the precious blood of the Lamb. Declaring life, yes LIFE, is the message to everyone around by sharing the good news out of a renewed understanding of it.

If you haven't heard of Life in Six Words by Propaganda you should check it out at [Dare2share.org](http://Dare2share.org) and click the Life in Six Words video.

The theology of the gospel message is more transformational than we often give it credit. Teenage as well as early college life is full of landmines: A Bad self-image? The gospel of the new creation! 2 Corinthians 5:17. Struggles with Guilt? The gospel that Jesus paid the price for our sins! Colossians 2:13. Spiritual apathy? The gospel encourages us to offer ourselves to Him in light of His sacrifice! Romans 12:1. When teens leave home armed with the gospel, both receiving it and letting it work in their lives, they can then master the giving of the gospel to others. The chances of them serving Jesus passionately for the rest of their lives is greatly increased. The Gospel has the power to reach the lost. It also brings the power to energize those who are found. *"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."* 2 Corinthians 1:18

We have the Life in Six Words books available in the youth room. It is a great tool for preparing your youth personally

## Drew's Webb of Worship

The last couple newsletter articles have been devoted to communicating on the WPT's progress with the Sanctuary Update plan. By now, if you are reading this, you are aware of what most, if not all, of the changes will be. We have also endeavored to answer all the questions that have been coming in to the Deacons and Pastors regarding this project. The last 2 Sundays there has been an insert into the bulletin addressing these questions. You will also find a few more questions on page 5 of this newsletter. This past Sunday it was announced that we will hold a meeting at another time to further communicate on this project. You will hear about that when the date and time are set. At that meeting you will be able to see chairs, large samples of the carpet, and colors that will be used. You will also be able to see what the sanctuary will actually look like when the project is completed. If you would like to see that now then I encourage you to go to [cornerstone-eldridge.org](http://cornerstone-eldridge.org) and mouse over the media tab,

with the gospel. And they are meant to be a witnessing tool. Your youth writes a note in the front cover and gives the book to a friend who they want to share Christ with. This act will force an awkward conversation, but awkward is awesome! I got to see Beth give one to a foreign exchange student on our tennis team Saturday night. And I know that she is ready for whatever life brings in her future. She understands that God Our Sins Paying Everyone Life is real. And it continues to transform her life and will infect others as she continues to communicate that message.

Every time we share the Gospel with someone, in word or deed, we affirm its truth in our own lives. And that truth is a rock to anchor our lives. The winds can blow and the waters can come, but no storm of life can tear down a house build on that Rock. And He who spoke that promise will keep it till the end. She is ready not because of anything we have done for her... But what He has done. Praise the Lord.

### Up Coming Events May

Wednesday May 1 <sup>st</sup>	No Limits Youth Ministry 6:45-8:30 "Quenching Spiritual Thirst"
Sunday May 5 <sup>th</sup>	Serve Fest 9:00 am
Wednesday May 8 <sup>th</sup>	No Limits Youth Ministry 6:45 – 8:30 Prayer Focus Night
Wednesday May 15	North Scott Clergy Senior Baccalaureate Service 7:00- 8:30 No normal groups
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Pizza and Movie night 5:30 at church movie TBA
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	No Limits Youth Ministry 6:45- 8:30 "Living the Full Life"
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm Youth Purpose Team Meeting
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	No Limits Youth Ministry 6:45- 8:30 "All You Need Is Love"

and then click on newsletters. There you will be able to find a digital version of this newsletter. At the end of the online version of this newsletter will be a rendering of the sanctuary space with the chairs, colors, and carpets that will be used. This will also be posted in the ROCK center in coming weeks for people to look at. Should you have any other questions I encourage you to speak to one of the Deacons or any of us Pastors.

Completely unrelated: I will be co-leading a Seek and Soak event at the Quad Cities Prayer Center on May 11th at 7.30pm. I encourage you to come out and join in the time of worship in prayer and song. A couple weeks ago I had the opportunity to partner with Scott Schaefer and lead worship for the Quad Cities Association of Evangelicals and I am excited for yet another opportunity to lead worship with such a gifted worshipper, leader, and musician. Come join us next Saturday!

## Sonshine Community Ministries

I'm going out on a limb by sharing with you that I am not fond of change. I get comfortable when I think things are going well and I get a little "anxious" when I hear that what I like is going to change. I have to admit that I was not fond of people going into the ROCK to listen to a simulcast service many years ago. Why couldn't we all stay together and listen to Pastor Scott in the sanctuary like always. I don't mind crowds. But, after a while, I had to admit that some people were comfortable in the ROCK, sitting at a round table, getting up to refill their coffee. So, if they were happy, who was I to say it was a bad move. Then, when there was talk of shutting down the service in the ROCK and going to TWO services, and moving everyone back into the sanctuary, and maybe, even doing away with the donuts, I just didn't know what to think. What were they thinking; I mean people liked being in the ROCK and people liked having coffee and donuts and if we went to two services, I would miss seeing a lot of my church family and I like seeing my whole church family on Sunday. Wouldn't the sanctuary look kind of empty during at least one of the services? But, again, I was wr-wr-wr-wrong. Both service times are enjoying good numbers and I am seeing most of my church family between the two services as we fellowship with coffee and donuts in the ROCK. Then Pastor Tony leaving as Youth Pastor. I've had the privilege of volunteering for Youth Group. I've learned so much from Pastor Tony. I've witnessed how he has made a difference in the lives of so many of our youth. This didn't seem right. However, God has led him to join Sonshine Ministries. God certainly isn't done with Pastor Tony, and now we have the privilege of having him on our team. I believe God has great plans regarding Pastor Tony and Sonshine. OK, but now "they" are really messing with me. Sending Pastor Mark and family to DeWitt? This is more than I can handle. I love my

church family and if it was up to me, no one would ever leave: EVER! However, when I heard Pastor Mark speak about this move on Sunday I was very touched. I, too, am taking Perspectives. I get it that God asks us to do things that might seem to be difficult in the beginning. But He sees the big picture. I am so proud of Pastor Mark & Andrea and the kids for being obedient to God's call. I believe God will use the Z's and the DeWitt site in a big way.

So, on one hand I don't particularly like change. But, on the other hand, I have a tremendous respect for our Pastors, our Deacons, our Trustees and other church leaders. I trust completely their decisions. It is my prayer that our church body (whom I love) will stay united. I pray because of the changes being made, many more people will hear the truth of Christ's love and forgiveness for all. I pray that we would all work together to reach out with welcoming arms to the many who are hurting, are poor in spirit, who have no hope. That is what we are about.

**A Need:** We need 4 or 5 drivers to pick up kids in Mt. Joy for VBS and bring them home afterward. We feel that it will be less chaotic to have 4 kids to a vehicle instead of taking them all on the church van. There is better control in smaller numbers. Each day you would drive the same kids (they would wait for pick-up at Lot 13) and there would be a designated area or room after VBS for you to meet each day so there is order in getting them home. Please prayerfully consider helping in this area. Call me if you can help.

Thank you to all of you who pray, volunteer & support Sonshine. We appreciate you. Jan Kloss/Director/563-349-2342

## More Q & A on Sanctuary Upgrade

In addition to questions already answered in the bulletin insert, here are some more important questions that have been submitted to the Deacons & Pastors:

**Has the Worship Purpose Team (WPT) received the right input?** The WPT has consulted with professionals in all the areas related to this project. Some of these professionals are lighting, design, and construction professionals, both within and outside of our congregation. The WPT, along with the trustees involved in this project, have worked to examine the different perspectives related to each aspect of the update.

**Is this the best way to spend \$100,000?** That is an important question for churches and individual believers alike. Every time as individuals we upgrade our vehicle or do home improvements or buy a new iPhone or take a vacation or go out to a restaurant – is this the best way to spend this money? One could argue that giving money to missions or the poor is always a better use of money than spending money on facilities and other material and temporal things. Yet every homeowner understands the responsibility of spending money on upkeep, maintenance and – in many cases – just having their home and property look nice. Same principle applies to churches that own buildings.

It has been 25+ years since our church body did a major upgrade on what is arguably the most important and sacred space in our building. We don't spend \$100,000 every year on upgrades. It may be another 15-25 years before we spend this kind of money on our sanctuary again.

Is a beautiful sanctuary essential to heartfelt worship? Of course not. But it is not unspiritual to desire to beautify a worship space as an act of love and devotion to God. Of course, beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and different people have different tastes and preferences, but it is not worldly or materialistic or contrary to God's Kingdom purposes to beautify a worship space from hearts that desire to glorify God.

Practically speaking, first impressions are important in attracting

new worship attenders. Of course, the friendliness of the people and the quality of the worship service itself are very important. But outward appearances are also a factor for some people deciding which church, if any, to attend.

Not many churches have been able to increase their mission budget 18 years in a row. Stagnant and declining churches have a hard time raising their mission budget year after year. What has been Cornerstone's primary growth engine (both spiritually and numerically)? Worship. Spiritually dynamic worship. Worship attendance that has steadily grown from 150 to 400, with a recent growth spurt under Pastor Drew's leadership. Growing worship attendance fuels growing missions and outreach. And a positive first impression is one factor in growing worship attendance. And a fresh, up-to-date appearance of the worship center and other facilities helps make a positive first impression.

**Does spending money on a sanctuary upgrade mean we are becoming an inwardly-focused church that cares more about outward appearances than spiritual growth and outreach?** NO! Most of us can worship just fine the way the sanctuary is and has been for the past 25 years. This is not about the personal preferences of the WPT members! Just as most homeowners make some updates before putting their house up for sale, so also churches need to make regular updates so that their outward appearance reflects their spiritual vitality. We are doing this for the benefit of helping our outreach to new worship attenders.

**How will this project be funded?** No borrowed money. No budget money. This project is NOT taking money away from any other ministry or outreach or mission of the church. This project will be funded 85-100% by voluntary designated giving through a special capital funds campaign (and possibly 15% from the Capital Improvements Fund which is also separate from the church budget general fund). The project will not be started until at least 85% of the cash is on hand.

## The UrbanEdge

Thank you so much for your prayer support. Our Sunday afternoon Sunday school is going great. We have new children coming every Sunday. They range in age from 3 to 12. One really amazing thing that is happening is the number of children who are memorizing their Bible verse during the week and then reciting it on Sundays at the beginning of class. I would say 75% of them come back and can say the verse word for word. We just memorized Romans 10:9 and they all know it, with the exception of the 3-year-old.

Our after-school program is ministering to a different group of children, mostly boys. These guys come and play and eat and talk to us. We are still building trust with them. We have had opportunities to share the gospel and answer questions about the Bible and moral issues. Please continue to pray for our relationships to grow and for opportunities to share Christ.

Two great things happened a week ago on the sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood. In the morning a woman named Liz was standing on the sidewalk holding a sign which said something like "Look at the Ultrasound" and on the back "You can still change your mind" or something like that. A car pulled up and whipped into the Planned Parenthood lot and a young man in his early twenties got out with a sign. His sign said "Abortion, Just Do It." He walked over and stood next to Liz. Well, Liz looked at him and realized she knew him and said, "I am trying to figure out what Glenda's son is doing here with a sign like that." He looked at her and realized she was the mother of one of his friends and said, "Oh, you're Mark's mom" (or something like that). She then asked him if he really believed what his sign said. He said he did, so she told him some of the facts of what abortion is and how it hurts women. He said, "You are starting to make me feel guilty." She said, "I am not trying to do that." Then Jeannie Wonio walked over and said, "Can I ask you a question?" He said okay. So she asked him, "Is that sign for the people coming in here today for abortions or did you bring that sign down here to harass us on the sidewalk?" He said, "I brought it to harass you." Jeanne laughed and said, "My sons like to do stuff like that too." Then the guard came out and yelled at this guy and asked if he was with us, and he pointed to his sign and said no. The guard asked him to move his car farther away for the entrance. He just went and got in his car and left. It was so beautiful how the ladies just loved him, reasoned with him and were so kind to him. He was completely disarmed and defeated

and he left, I'm sure, with a different opinion about who we are on the sidewalk.

Then in the afternoon Beth Pearson and Jeanie and I were standing by one of the exits and we were talking and I was mentioning how we hadn't had a woman change her mind for awhile, at least not one we knew about and how people had been very hostile lately and were not taking any information or Bibles. I said, "we need a good success story." Then I just looked up to heaven and said, "God, we really need to hear that someone changed their mind." Then I said, I just know ladies change their minds and we just don't know about it. Jeannie said, "I know they do because I hear about it from across the street." (The Women's Choice Center is across the street from Planned Parenthood.) So both Beth and I asked her to tell us some. She said one day a woman went in to have an abortion and she was standing inside the clinic looking out the window and she saw the people on the sidewalk and the thought came into her mind, "They love my baby more than I do." She changed her mind and didn't have the abortion and eventually ended up across the street and told them her story. We were so excited when we heard that so Jeannie told us another. One day a young woman came out and Jeannie offered to give her a ride. The lady took the ride and told Jeannie that she had come to Planned Parenthood for the last three Tuesdays and filled out the paperwork and sat in the chairs, but she just couldn't go through with the abortion. She didn't have it. Again, we were thrilled to hear that story. While we were talking, a young woman left and walked to her car and drove out the far end. She stopped when she got to the exit where Pat was ( he's an older guy who comes every week) and we cheered because she was taking literature from him. After she drove away Pat walked down to where we were standing and said, "She changed her mind and she is very happy. She told me to come down and tell you ladies that she changed her mind and she is very happy." He said some lady wearing a hat gave her some literature earlier. Well, we about fell on the ground with happiness; praising God and thanking God for saving that baby and that lady and answering our prayer so quickly.

Please come join us on Tuesdays. It makes a difference.

In Christ's Service,  
Lori Major

## Ladies Night Out

*Join us for a fun filled evening of sharing and fellowship.....*

### Ladies Night Out

Saturday, May 4th

6:30 pm

Whisk Away Café

919 6th Avenue

DeWitt, IA

RSVP to Kathy Wilke

At 563-659-2872

## Trivia Night!

*To support Steffan & Sandy Nass' Adoption from Uganda*

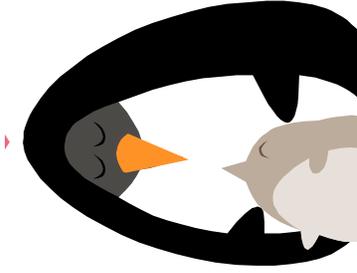
**Friday, May 17th at 6:30 pm in ROCK**

Sign up individually or form a team of 8

Contact Deana Trotter at (63) 823-4638 to register

Gift Cards awarded for 1st and 2nd place tables!

*Light snacks provided. Bring your own snacks too! Power outlets provided upon request. Max 8 per table. Limited childcare available, please reserve in advance*



# May 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>5</b> 7:45-8:10 am Prayer 8:15 am Worship Service 9:00-11:30 am SERVE Fest followed by pizza/ROCK</p>	<p><b>6</b> 3:30-5 pm Sonshine Tutor 6:30-9 pm Archery 6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery 7:00 pm Lydia/Safe Families Dessert Fundraiser at St. Ambrose University 8:00-9:15 pm Women's Basketball in ROCK</p>	<p><b>7</b> 3:30-5 pm Sonshine After School/Mt. Joy 6:30-9:30 pm Perspectives</p>	<p><b>1</b> 6:30 am Men meet at Denny's on NW Blvd., Dav. 3:30-5 pm Sonshine Tutoring 6:30-9 pm Archery 6:50-8:30 pm Jr. &amp; Sr. High Youth No Limits No Prayer Meeting</p>	<p><b>2</b> 12:30 pm Ladies Lunch at Pizza Ranch, Bettendorf 3:05-4:30 pm The Club at Neil Armstrong School, Park View 3:30-5 pm Sonshine After School/Mt. Joy 6:30 pm Coed Volleyball in ROCK 7:00 pm National Day of Prayer Service in sanctuary</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> 6:30 pm Ladies Night Out at Whisk Away Café, DeWitt</p>
<p><b>12</b> 7:45-8:10 am Prayer <b>Mother's Day</b> Nurse Office open AM Pastor Mark preaches</p>	<p><b>6</b> 3:30-5 pm Sonshine Tutor 6:30-9 pm Archery 6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery 8:00-9:15 pm Women's Basketball in ROCK</p>	<p><b>14</b> 3:30-5 pm Sonshine After School/Mt. Joy 6:30-9:30 pm Perspectives</p>	<p><b>8</b> 6:30 am Men meet at Denny's on NW Blvd., Dav. 3:30-5 pm Sonshine Tutoring 6:30-9 pm Archery 6:50-8:30 pm Jr. &amp; Sr. High Youth No Limits Prayer Focus 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting</p>	<p><b>9</b> 3:05-4:30 pm The Club at Neil Armstrong School, Park View 3:30-5 pm Sonshine After School/Mt. Joy 6:30 pm Coed Volleyball in ROCK</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>
<p><b>19</b> 7:45-8:10 am Prayer <b>Pentecost Sunday</b> <b>Honor Grads</b> 12:30-1:30 pm Sonshine Sunday School/Mt. Joy 5:00 pm DeWitt Info Mtg. 6:00 pm Experiencing God</p>	<p><b>13</b> 3:30-5 pm Sonshine Tutoring 6:30-9 pm Archery 6:30 pm Celebrate Recovery 8:00-9:15 pm Women's Basketball in ROCK</p>	<p><b>21</b> 4:00-7:30 pm Sonshine at Peppings 5:30-9 pm CLASS 101 Blueprint for Membership</p>	<p><b>15</b> 6:30 am Men meet at Denny's on NW Blvd., Dav. 3:30-5 pm Sonshine Tutoring 6:30-9 pm Archery 7:00 pm NSHS Baccalaureate Service at Cornerstone No Prayer Meeting</p>	<p><b>16</b> 3:05-4:30 pm The Club at Neil Armstrong School, Park View 3:30-5 pm Sonshine After School/Mt. Joy 6:30 pm Coed Volleyball in ROCK</p>	<p><b>17</b> 5:30 pm No Limits Pizza &amp; Movie Night 6:30 pm Trivia Night for Nass' Adoption/ROCK</p>	<p><b>18</b> 7:00 am Trustee Meeting</p>
<p><b>26</b> 7:45-8:10 am Prayer Nurse Office open</p>	<p><b>27</b> <b>Memorial Day</b></p>	<p><b>28</b> 7:00 pm Moldova Trip Informational Mtg. in Library 7:30 pm Youth Purpose Team Meeting</p>	<p><b>22</b> 6:30 am Men meet at Denny's on NW Blvd., Dav. 3:30-5 pm Sonshine Tutoring 6:50-8:30 pm Jr. &amp; Sr. High Youth No Limits 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting</p>	<p><b>23</b> 3:05-4:30 pm The Club at Neil Armstrong School, Park View 3:30-5 pm Sonshine After School/Mt. Joy 6:30 pm Coed Volleyball in ROCK</p>	<p><b>24</b> <i>May 24-27 Family Retreat at Pine Lake Christian Center, Eldora, IA</i></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>
<p><b>26</b> 7:45-8:10 am Prayer Nurse Office open</p>	<p><b>28</b> 7:00 pm Moldova Trip Informational Mtg. in Library 7:30 pm Youth Purpose Team Meeting</p>	<p><b>29</b> 6:30 am Men meet at Denny's on NW Blvd., Dav. 3:30-5 pm Sonshine Tutoring 6:50-8:30 pm Jr. &amp; Sr. High Youth No Limits 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting</p>	<p><b>30</b> 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting</p>	<p><b>30</b> 7:00 pm Missions Meeting</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	<p><b>Coming in June:</b> June 2-7: July 28 Sundays at 2:00 pm Financial Peace Univ. June 3-7 8:45-11:30 am SonWest Roundup Vacation Bible School</p>

# May Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Ashley Crouch Charles & Cheryl Hageman	2 Luanna Brabant Alannah Skinner Doug & Shanna Drimmon	3 Brenna Bullock Kaitlyn Crouch	4 Kyle Colson Kirsten Munson Marianna VonMuenster Roseanne Williamson Chuck & Bea Drenter Bill & Ingrid Gerth
5	6 Julie Swanson	7 Nicholas Boddicker	8 Amanda Henry Pastor Scott Pearson	9 Shelbie Hagge Clarissa Rowe Stephanie Skadal	10 Betty Carter	11 Liz Arter
12 Judy Saxton Darelle & Lynda Nigh	13 Aaron Schwartz	14 Rachel Newton	15 Chloe Sosnowski Dennis & Roberta Williams	16 Kevin Munson Michelle Paulus	17 Keith Curry Bucky Percuoco Brennan Reid	18 Vicky Becraft Mickey Blake Kyle Perrin Berry Shaw
19 Brooklyn Bullock Jerry & Judi Hodgett	20 Taylor Engle Tristan Klaus Susie Schmidt Morgan Watts Melvin & Claudia Hill Dion & Dawn Olson	21	22 Kaleb Henry Dee McCimpsey Andrea Zevenbergen	23	24 Connie Beer	25 Isaac Brewer
26 Don Ryan Jim Yetter Pastor Mark Zevenbergen Bill & Nancy Hagge	27 Rob Beer Cheryl Hegerman Allen Ide Kylie Morrow	28 Gaylon Ideker Joyce Kelly Thelma Skadal	29 Danielle McReynolds Gaylon & Andrea Ideker	30	31 Adam Major	

## New Converge Moldova Missionaries

In just a few days Roman and I will be celebrating our two year wedding anniversary. As we walked down the aisle that day to say 'I do,' we both knew we were in for more than we could ever imagine. Three weeks later we were saying 'goodbye' to friends and family and boarding a plane for Moldova, equally unsure of what lay ahead. After two years of marriage and a year and 8 months of life and ministry together in Moldova, we feel so blessed to have come to a deeper appreciation of the simple truth that, 'God is good and all His promises are true.'

Arriving in Moldova, we didn't have a big plan for how ministry would look. Our goal in the beginning was to be open, to be learners. We held closely to Jesus' words in John 15, 'Remain in Me...' and as we did, He showed Himself faithful in every area we entrusted to Him. Ministry came naturally and all of our needs were met. We never had to search for a hurting soul. The young mothers who worked at our corner store, 'our boys' from the project Roman started for vulnerable young men, and a small group of girls who'd been rescued from trafficking or abused in their own homes - there was never a question of, 'What should we be doing here?' Instead we oftentimes found ourselves longing for more time, and along with this feeling, a need for more training, and at times for more resources to be able to share Christ more effectively and go deeper into the lives of those He never ceased to introduce us to.

After many long discussions and a lot of prayer, we decided to contact Converge Worldwide. From the very start, we have felt their prayerfulness and sincere concern - not only over their decision of whether to accept a cross-cultural couple in a country they've not yet worked in, but also over our personal lives and the ministries we were currently a part of in Moldova.

This past February we were invited to attend a Missionary Assessment Center (MAC), hosted by Converge. For three and a half days we were incredibly challenged and encouraged through a number of trainings, discussions and interviews with a group of seasoned missionaries, psychologists and missions strategists at Converge's offices in Orlando, Florida. Shortly after attending

the MAC we received a second invitation, this time to share our vision before the Converge board at their annual meeting in Arlington Heights, IL. On April 10th, we were interviewed once more by a small group of pastors and lay leaders and then asked to present before the board on the following morning. Once again, we rejoiced to see God's hand of blessing as the board agreed upon our appointment and prayed over us to return as missionaries to Moldova.

We are truly blessed by the leadership at Converge and already feel a part of a very purposeful and Christ-centered family. We're so thankful for Converge's emphasis on the importance of developing transformational leaders to effectively reach their communities for Christ. 'Discipleship' and 'teaching' are words we both love and we see these as being a big part of our future ministry in Moldova. We're also thankful to be on board with an organization that places a high importance on strengthening churches, as both of us feel a burden to help existing believers in Moldova to grow in Christ and catch a vision for church multiplication in the outlying villages. Along with this, we hope to serve the church as humble models of evangelism, helping to identify and overcome barriers between the reached and unreached and prayerfully exploring new ministry opportunities within the region's local schools. We also expect there will be a good deal of 'unplanned' ministry, just as we experienced throughout our first season in Moldova, and we greatly look forward to this as well.

As for next steps, we'll be hearing from Converge shortly about how to begin our support raising in preparation for our return. Thank you so much for your ongoing prayers for us and for God's hand in the country of Moldova. We believe He has great plans for bringing joy to His children there, and we are deeply humbled to be a part of this!

For His Glory, Roman & Emily Citac

"Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest!" John 4:35

## Our Adoption Journey...

When Steffan was driving home from a high school basketball game one evening, he heard God's voice tell him to adopt a boy, about Connor's age, from a war-torn country in Africa. We hadn't ever talked about adopting, but were well aware of what James 1:27 says in regard to orphans. So, when Steffan told me what he'd heard, I quickly agreed.

We prayed over the next several weeks and months about which war-torn country to adopt from, and I asked God, "How does one teach a language to a child who is 12 years old when the teacher doesn't know the child's native language?" As we prayed, the country of Uganda started to show up over and over. We saw it in print, online, and on TV. The final confirmation was when we received a "Desiring God" mailing that stated that as a former British colony, the national language of Uganda is English. God not only showed us the country, but also answered the language question.

At that point, we began to look for an adoption agency with a Uganda program that works to find homes for older kids. We learned that few such agencies exist. After several months of searching, we finally came across an agency called "Agape Adoptions". I called Agape on a Monday morning and spoke to the director, who after my inquiry responded, "How

## by Sandy Nass

funny that you called today. I just returned from Uganda on Saturday, having visited an orphanage full of charming, sweet, boys around that age, and all I could think on my way home was, 'who is going to adopt those boys?'" We had our agency! Only God can work out the timing of her trip, our phone call, and His call on our lives.

That was in September of 2012. We quickly filled out applications and stacks of paperwork and sent them into Agape and our local home study agency. We mailed everything on October 2, 2012. On February 27, 2013, we received photos of two boys, David and Francis, brothers ages 10 and 12, who are available for us to adopt. We're waiting, patiently (?), for the answers to a couple of questions before we officially proceed, but are so excited about these two boys!

Our agency is hopeful that we will travel to Uganda sometime this summer to officially become parents to David and Francis and to bring them home. We continue to trust God's timing and stand in awe of the way He has brought this about, providing just what we need just when we need it. He is so good!

## CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

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## Family News

*Our deepest sympathy to:*

Pastor Tony and his family upon the loss of his aunt.

Dereck Kaiser and his family upon the loss of his grandfather.

*"I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you."  
John 14:18*

### **Financial Peace University**

begins June 2-July 28  
Sundays  
2:00 pm in sanctuary  
*Please register in foyer*



### **Come and join us on Sunday Mornings:**

Sunday School Opportunities  
for the Family  
Worship Services

9:45 a.m.  
8:15 & 10:45 a.m.

## Women's Summer Bible Study

**Breaking Free — Updated Edition, by Beth Moore**  
An 11-week DVD series with Study Guide

Beth Moore looks at the Book of Isaiah through the lives of the kings who ruled during the prophet's ministry. It includes testimonies of how women like you have found freedom and have been delivered from personal captivity.

Thursday mornings (9-11 am) or evenings (7-9 pm)

*Child care provided for morning session only*

June 13th—August 22nd

Cost \$20 for the booklet — register by May 26th

Sign up begins May 12th in narthex

For more details contact Tammy Bullock at 285-5293

PROPOSED SANCTUARY REMODEL

