

CPC THIS WEEK
THE E-NEWSLETTER OF CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
February 8, 2019

Man – That Was A Lot Of Rain!!!

Yesterday was a soaker – to say the least. I even decided to stop by the house during the day to see if anything was floating in my basement! Praise God – just a few wet spots. I hope the same was true for some of you! When you experience that kind of rain what thoughts run through your mind? Me, I start looking for some gopher wood and a bucket of tar!

Yesterday was just one day. But let's remember...

11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened.

12 And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights. – Genesis 7:11,12

Can you imagine yesterday times FORTY? Now that's a lot of rain!!!

The very same God that created a "very good" earth was now judging the very creation He had fashioned. Why? Our sin. But that phrase doesn't adequately describe the depth of that sin condition. Let's recall how God fully detailed the daily depravity in His Word:

5 The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

6 And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.

7 So the Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." – Genesis 6:5-7

So, a Holy God unleashed the mighty powers of the waters below and above to wash the earth of its sinful plight. But even in His just judgment we find hope – a pledge to the promise made in the very good garden -

8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. – Genesis 6:8

The word for "favor" found in this verse is taken from the Hebrew word (c)hanan, חָנַן. Along with other meanings, the word "grace" would be more than a suitable translation. In the midst of divine devastation we find divine deliverance – Noah and His family were spared; grace.

In this epic drama – an epic real and true drama – we also find another promise in the pain.

12 And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations:

13 I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

14 When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds,

*15 I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.
16 When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.”
17 God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.” – Genesis 9:12-17*

In the previous chapter God said this – following the altar sacrifice performed by Noah:

*Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done.
– Genesis 8:21*

I was concerned about a number of things yesterday, but one of them really wasn't building an Ark. I'll never have to that; God Promised! And every time it rains, every time it pours, I remember the Covenant God of Love and Faithfulness. And even though I may not see His rainbow – I know it is present in promise. Just like the promise that one day our earthly rain will give way to His all-encompassing heavenly reign. And to that, we can all say – **LET IT POUR!**

Thankful for a dry basement and one day, dry eyes!

PB

CPC MINISTRY INFORMATION

SUNDAY'S SERMON

Title: “A Very-ness, Much-ness, All-ness Kind of Love”

Text: Mark 12:28-34

Pastor Bob Clark

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Sunday School for all ages. Our Adult classes are ***“Living in Grace”*** led by

NURSERY TRAINING – A reminder that there is a Nursery Training Session tomorrow morning in the Church lobby at 9:15. If you have not registered as of yet please contact Nedra Clark today at 765.277.3342 or nedraclark@msn.com If you cannot attend tomorrow's session there is another training scheduled for Tuesday evening, Feb 12, at 7 pm at the church. Again, please contact Nedra if you plan to attend.

WOMEN'S RESTROOM RENOVATION: Due to some delay in materials, the restroom will not be available for two weeks. However, the Family Restroom across the hall is available.

KENYA TEACHING TRIP – Pastor Bob is returning to Thika, Feb 21 – Mar 1, for another ITEM sponsored teaching trip. If you would like more information about his trip or would like to contribute toward trip please see Bob.

CPC CHOIR will meet at 7pm on Feb 20.

(Announcements continued on next page.)

YOUTH GROUP SKI TRIP is scheduled for Saturday, Feb 16. Please see Jeff Schrage for information.

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST – Men, join us tomorrow morning at 8 am for breakfast and a brief look at what it means to meditate on God's word.

PASTA AND PERFORMANCE – You are cordially invited to our first talent show and spaghetti dinner fundraiser to support the Youth Ministry on Sunday, Feb 24, from 5- till no later than 7:30 p.m. See Jeff for details.

LADIES NIGHT OUT – There will be a Ladies Movie & Games Night on Friday, Feb 22. The event will be held at the Kehlenbrink's: 1546 Idlewild Drive. Start time will be 6pm. Please bring your favorite appetizer or snack to share. Please RSVP to Laura by Wednesday, Feb 20, via text or call (765)277-1590. (Movie TBD by majority vote of those attending.)

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES' STUDY – This Old Testament Survey is wrapping up its study of 2 Samuel. If you would like to join the next installment of 1 Kings there will be a "join us" review on Tuesday, February 19, and we'll begin our study in 1 Kings after Pastor Bob returns from Kenya, March 5. We meet at the church fireplace area from 8:30-10:00am. Please see Pastor Bob for more details.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE - SING! Books from the most recent Getty Sponsored "Sing Conference" are available at the Welcome Counter for \$5 each. Authors, songwriters, and worship leaders Keith and Kristyn Getty write to church members to remind them why the Church should sing, when the Church should sing, and how the Church should sing.

SIERRA LEONE MISSION TRIP – THIS SUNDAY, FEB 10, is your last opportunity to bring items for the Sierra Leone trip. There are two "donation" suitcases in the foyer for Kid's Camp, School supplies and Office supplies for Makeni World Hope office; a list of needed items is on the table. If you sponsor children in Sierra Leone, you might think of giving things that will benefit all children (school supplies, Frisbees, jump rope, etc.), instead of something benefitting only one child.

We are collecting items for Sierra Leone:

Supplies for Kids' Camp:

Soccer balls (deflated)
Hard candy (Dum Dums)
Markers
Colored construction paper
Stickers
Balloons
Frisbees
Colored markers
Scotch tape

School supplies:

Spiral notebooks
Pencils
Chalk

Office Supplies for WHI Makeni Office:

First Aid Kits
Thumb drives
Copier paper
Pencils and pens

SIERRA LEONE MISSION TRIP - There will be two suitcases in the foyer to receive supplies for Kid's Camp, School supplies and Office supplies for Makeni World Hope office. List of needed supplies will be on table. Also for those of you sponsoring children in Sierra Leone you might think of giving things that will benefit all children (school supplies, Frisbees, jump rope, etc), instead of something benefitting only one child.

SUNDAY CPC VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

THIS WEEK, FEBRUARY 10

Worship Nursery: Arden Davis, Jane Robinson, Conner Miller
Sunday School Nursery: Judy Hall, Kathy Roszell
Pre-K/K Children's Church: Val Moore

NEXT WEEK, FEBRUARY 17

Worship Nursery: Laura Wood, Aaron Fredrick, Karissa Owens
Sunday School Nursery: Nedra Clark, Jesse Owens
Pre-K/K Children's Church: Emily Fredrick

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

This Week: Judy Ford, Nedra Clark
Next Week: Jane & Les Hunt

WELCOME/GREETERS

This Week: Dan & Lori Staifer
Next Week: Mark Harrington, Pat James

DEACON ON DUTY

This Week: Aaron Fredrick
Next Week: Doug Miller

WORSHIP ASSISTANCE

February: Projection/Madeline Steinfort; Sound/Brian Todd
March: Projection/Sadie Steinfort; Sound/Jodi McKinney

SAVE THE DATE!

PASTA AND PERFORMANCE – You are cordially invited to our first talent show and spaghetti dinner fundraiser to support the Youth Ministry on Sunday, Feb 24, from 5- no later than 7:30pm. See Jeff for details.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Tuesday Morning Ladies' Bible Study, Old Testament Survey, 2 Samuel led by Pastor Bob Clark, meets in the church fireplace area from 8:30-10:00am.

THANK YOU!!!

Communities in Schools, Wayne County, Thank You Card: Dear Pastor Bob Clark and Congregation – Thank you so much for organizing and collecting coats, clothes, hats and gloves. Your giving is so much appreciated as our students and families appreciate their needs being fulfilled. Sincerely, Melissa Ream, Charles Elementary, Site Coordinator, Communities in Schools

THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD

FROM KNOWING ABOUT CHRIST TO KNOWING CHRIST: CHURCH PLANTING IN CUSCO

A few weeks ago, I returned from a visit to Cusco, Peru, where we serve long term when not on home ministry assignment. A good friend and national partner, Hugo, picked me up from the airport and we immediately engaged in catching up with each other about our lives and ministry. I asked him, “How is church ministry going?”

He replied, “Good. Calm. With lots of problems.” We both laughed at the peculiar dichotomy represented in his reply. How could the ministry be doing well and *tranquilo* yet be marked by lots of problems? Yet I knew what he meant—church planting is simultaneously challenging and rewarding.

Church planting in Cusco, like many places in Latin America, can seem to some like a misuse of resources. The Catholic Church’s influence since the conquest of the Americas in the 16th century has proliferated a religious culture centered around the person of Jesus. People know who Christ is and they know that He died for their sins on a cross. They even know that they should be baptized and repent of their sins. So, what is left for the missionary to proclaim?

An awkward inquiry

This past year I had a membership interview lunch with one of our new candidates for baptism, Guadalupe. She is a sweet and reserved young woman with an infectious smile. Usually these interviews involve some simple questions to confirm the person understands the gospel, the sign of baptism, and the importance of church membership. However, for some strange reason, I went in a new direction with her interview and said, “Why don’t I pretend to be a non-Christian and you try to tell me about Jesus?”

The second the words left my mouth, I realized all of the cultural norms that I had broken in putting her on the spot. And what’s worse, she is a very quiet person and new Christian. Who was I to assume she had become the Latina Billy Graham overnight? What had I done to this poor girl? Was I expecting way too much? She just wanted to be baptized and there I was laying on her an expectation of seminary-level evangelistic prowess.

She sat across from me staring at her soup while the seconds that went by were eternities of my own punishment for having forced her into an uncomfortable situation. I could feel my own heart slowly sink to my feet as I suffered the weight of my demands on this quiet and reserved young lady. Meanwhile she just stared back at that soup as if it were going to give her a list of keywords to throw back at the pastor. As I laid out my plan of what to say to get us out of this mess, she looked up and spoke.

An eloquent response

She talked for quite a while which was really surprising for this young lady. In fact, in those four minutes I heard more words from her than in the entire year that I had known her. She spoke about how she came to know the church, her community, and how through the community of faith she became reconciled with the Father. She emphasized her need for intimacy and honor, for her being brought into a new family, and for the joy that she now experiences even though all of the situations of her life have not changed.

It was beautiful and eloquent. It was refreshing and inspiring. As I sat there and listened, I realized that her momentary pause was only to form her own thoughts and testimony. She painted an unquestionably raw and glorious image of the reconciled relationship we receive when Christ comes into our lives, our families, and our homes. His sacrifice paid a ransom for us and will bring us *home*. We are brought into a new tribe and a new family. I was in awe at every word she said and held back tears the entire time. She spoke from the heart of what she has experienced knowing Christ, but she forgot *one thing*.

I responded to her, “Lupe, you forgot to mention that Jesus died on the cross for our sins.” Her head returned to that downward position toward the soup and I quickly tried to recover a potential second failure by saying, “No, it’s okay. In fact, it’s great. Your ability to express your faith in a real and precise way was so refreshing for me.”

The cross and the relationship

Her response reminded me of why we do missions in Latin America. Everyone knows Jesus died on the cross for sins. However, we often mistakenly reduce Jesus’ death to a mere transaction of goods where we’re given the “go free” gesture by some apathetic judge who is strangely willing to punish his own son for our foolishness. When we see that the Judge wants the same intimacy with us that he shares with His Son and that we’re called out of the dysfunctional communities of this life into a better family, we begin to see the gospel with our heart and not just our mind. The good news speaks of more than just a payment for sin, but also of adoption and of a new identity.

I will never forget my interaction with Lupe that day. She was baptized and received as a new member that following Sunday and has been following after her new Father ever since. In a land where the vast majority of people know *of* Christ, she knows *the* Christ. Her circumstances in so many ways remain the same, but she has a hope and peace about the future. Just as my national friend Hugo summarized the ministry, our lives can be full of problems and chaos, but we’re part of a better community that awaits our full redemption in heaven. In Christ, we are reconciled with our Father in heaven who made everything out of nothing. Imagine what He can do with chaos.

Scott Dillon serves with MTW as the Cusco team leader and the Peru country director.

SCOTT DILLON, CUSCO PERU CHURCH PLANTING Jan 31, 2019

<https://www.mtw.org/stories/details/from-knowing-about-christ-to-knowing-christ-church-planting-in-cusco>

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

February Birthdays!

1	Ed Gallo	14	Bill Kehlenbrink
4	Mindy Deckard	18	Michael Gifford
4	Tom Deckard	18	Ruth Williamson
8	Jane Robinson	20	Kim Gray
9	Mike Luker	21	Olivia Pfeil
11	Kim Pratt	22	Diane Angilella
12	Jon Pfeil	23	Samantha Schrage
13	Kayla Esposito		

February Anniversaries!

17 John & Debbie Gentry

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Winter Farmers Market

Richmond Senior Community Center
1600 South 2nd Street, Richmond, IN 47374
Saturdays: 10 am to 1 pm

Event Details: Find local products EVERY week from 100% certified local farmers and vendors. Produce, meat, eggs, baked goods, jams and jellies, candles, soaps, jewelry, fine art, and so much more!

Civil Rights Film Series: Slavery By Another Name

Levi & Catharine Coffin State Historic Site
201 U.S. 27 North
Fountain City, IN 47341
765.847.1691

Saturday, February 9 from 5 – 7pm

The 13th Amendment abolished the practice of slavery in the United States at the end of the Civil War. But read closer and the words “except as a punishment for a crime” notes that other forms of involuntary servitude has and can still exist.....

<https://www.indianamuseum.org/levi-and-catharine-coffin-state-historic-site>
Tickets: Adult \$10; Senior \$8; Youth \$5; Children Under 3 Free Admission

**Senior: Ages 60 and older, Youth: Ages 3 through 17*

Morrisson Reeves Library: Friends of MRL Book Sale

80 N 6th Street, Richmond, IN 47374
765.966.8291

Saturday, February 9 from 10am - 2pm

Book Sale Open to the Public: 8,000 items for sale. Most items are \$1 or less! Cash or check accepted. No Credit Cards. Contact: lahmann@mrlinfo.org for details.