



LOOK WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE

By Mark Howells, Church Elder

Editor's Note: The first portion of this article was printed in our June 2009 newsletter. We accidentally left out the final six paragraphs of Mark's thoughts. This month we are printing the full article.

On Father's Day, fourteen years ago, a revival began in a Pensacola Florida church. In 5 years, over 200,000 people gave their lives to Jesus. The revival spread as thousands of visiting pastors went back to their congregation refreshed and renewed. Great music came from that revival. In fact, our family wore out 2 CDs from the revival. Some of these songs were "Spirit of the Sovereign Lord," "We Will Ride," "New Every Morning," "Creation Calls," "We Shall See the King," and "I Need You More."

Two additional songs came to my mind at a Bible Study a few weeks ago. The discussion was about sharing what God has done in our lives. How great it is to hear stories of God's interventions in our struggles, our disappointments, and our troubles. The songs from the worn out disks were: "Look What the Lord has Done" by Mark David Hanby and "Can You Believe" by Alvin Miranda.

*Look what the Lord has done
Look what the Lord has done
He healed my body, He touched my mind
He saved me just in time...*

*Can you believe what the Lord has done in me
Can you believe what the Lord has done in me
He saved me, cleansed me, turned my life around
Set my feet upon the solid ground
Can you believe what the Lord has done in me*

Oh, the stories we could share. Like the time one of us was thrown from the back seat of a vehicle, and lived. Or the time one of us slid into a snow-filled ditch. The impact blew out the windshield and snow jam-packed the inside of the vehicle. A man saw an outstretched hand sticking through the snow and rescued the driver. We have experienced deliverance from alcohol and drugs. We have seen family members that were given 6 months to live, live 20 plus years. We could tell of broken marriages that are now restored. There are several stories regarding the way doors were opened for adoptions. We have friends and families that have experienced their cancer going into remission or even completely disappearing. All of these stories and dozens more are great stories we should share. Look what the Lord has done!

But what about those of us that are experiencing struggles, hardships, disease, marriage problems, etc? I am reminded of the great faith chapter: Hebrews 11. The writer of the book mentions the stories that fall in the category "Look What the Lord Has Done;" stories about Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Gideon, and David; great stories of faith.

But then beginning in the middle of verse 35, we read:

Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. 36) Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. 37) They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated – 38) the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. 39) These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. 40) God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

Nothing was wrong with their faith. In fact, they were all commended for their faith. God has planned something better. He came to us. The Father sent His Son to save us. The prophet Habakkuk sums it all up in his prayer, recorded in the 3rd chapter of his Old Testament book:

17) *Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, 18) yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior.*

Yes, we can rejoice always, even in hardship, because we have a Savior. The Father sent His Son to save us. Now that's a story we should share! **Look what the Lord has done!**

WELCOME

Pastor John, Cheryl, and Olivia Kester to our Cleveland Church of Christ family. John will begin his pastoral position on July 5, 2009. There will be an installation service for John on Sunday, July 12, followed with a fellowship (potluck) dinner at noon.



ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

On Sundays, at 9:00am, we have two adult classes. They are 1) "The Bible Book of James" led by Sherm Rupe for all adults, and 2) "Sharing my Faith Without an Argument" led by Jo Rupe for women.

On Mondays, a weeknight Bible study will meet at the church at 6:30 p.m. on July 6 and 13. Sessions include a short video based on John Ortberg's book "If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat" followed by Bible study with group discussion and prayer time.

JULY 2009 EVENT CALENDAR

All events are at the church building unless otherwise noted.

* Indicates an article is elsewhere in this newsletter.

- PHCA Family Week – June 29-July 4
- North American Christian Convention, Louisville, KY – June 30-July 3
- USA Independence Day – July 4
- John Kester begins pastoral position – July 5*
- Monday evening Bible Study – July 6*
- Ladies Nite Out - Westwood Marina on Lake Washington – July 9 at 6:00pm
- Building Offering – July 12
- John Kester installed as our minister – July 12*
- Fellowship/Potluck meal – July 12*
- Monday evening Bible Study – July 13*
- Dorcas Fellowship – July 14 at 1:30pm
- Church Board Meeting – July 14 at 7:30pm
- SONSHINE Music Festival, Willmar – July 15-18
- PHCA Mature Adult – July 17-19
- August newsletter articles due to Lisa – July 23
- PHCA Ladies Retreat – July 24-26
- HEART TO HEART item distribution – July 25
- PHCA 7th-8th (Zone A) – July 26-August 1

COMING IN AUGUST

- Valleyfair Day by Crossroads College – Aug 10
- PHCA 5th-6th (Zone A) – August 9-14
- PHCA Motorcycle Weekend – Aug 14-16
- Rock The River Tour, St. Paul, sponsored by Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and Samaritan's Purse, www.rocktherivertour.com – Aug 16
- PHCA 4th Grade – Aug 16-19
- September Newsletter articles due to Lisa – Aug 20
- PHCA Family Weekend – August 20-23

FRIEND DAY 2009 has been scheduled for Sunday, September 20. Mark the day on your calendar and plan to attend. Friend Day has provided a great opportunity for us to invite our friends to worship with us. Several people who are now a part of our congregation first worshiped with us because someone invited them to Friend Day. Plan to invite some friends again this year. Wouldn't it be great if we had 500 people at Friend Day this year! All it would take is for each of us to bring a few friends. Invitations will be available at the church in a few weeks. Begin to ask God whom he desires you to invite to Friend Day. You do not have to wait until Friend Day, you can bring your friends to church any (and every) Sunday.

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the family of Marge Augustinovich who passed away on Monday, June 1.

We extend our sympathy to Pam Aanas & her family in the death of her grandson, Ricky, who died Tuesday, June 2.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Don Lloyd who passed away on Tuesday, June 9.

Please be in prayer for these families.

THANK YOU'S

Thank you so much in helping to make (mom's funeral) day special as we honor my mother Marge Augustinovich. We appreciate your hearts towards serving our family, the church, and our Lord.

Greg & LeeAnn Welch and the Lurth Family

Thank you all for your thoughts, prayers, cards, calls, and visits after my grandson's death. I am so blessed to be part of this church family.

God Bless you, Pam Aanas

Many thanks to you, our church family for the love and encouragement you are to the Lloyd family. We thank you for the cards, flowers, gifts and many rides to the appointments. Your prayers continue to carry us thru these difficult days. Many thanks to those who supplied food and served after Don's funeral service. May God continue to bless his family.

Lois Lloyd and Family

MEMORIALS RECEIVED

We have recently received memorial money in memory of Marge Augustinovich and Kenneth Flowers. Thank you.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

- Emily Phillips made a third trip to the state track meet where she finished fifth in the 3,200 meter run in 11 minutes 25 seconds. Congratulations, Emily!
- Another section of parking lot concrete was poured in June. Thank you to all of the workers who assisted lead volunteer Doug Swedberg.
- The following went to Work Weekend at Pine Haven Camp: Pam Aanas, Steve & Grant Den Herder, Judy Lloyd, David Lloyd.
- The following went to 11th-12th Grade Camp at Pine Haven: Laura Dickie and Emily Phillips.
- The following went to 9th-10th Grade camp at Pine Haven: Laura Dickie, Grant Den Herder, Austin Goettlicher, Ciara Guentzel, Trevor Schabert, Ben Taylor, Kevin Wagner and Mark Howells. John Kester was a co-dean for the week.
- Our 2009 VBS "Creation Connection" was a wonderful experience for 50 children. Co-Directors Roxanne Goodrich and Ellen Dickie were amazing. Thanks to all who invited and brought children to VBS! BIG kudos to ALL who helped before and during it to make VBS 2009 a huge success! The offering total for our VBS sponsored child Rubens from Haiti was \$420! Thank you so much!

CHURCH OF CHRIST
900 State Highway 99
Mail to: PO Box 307
Cleveland, MN 56017

OUR HEAD: Jesus Christ
PASTOR: John Kester

ALL SUNDAYS unless noted otherwise

8:45am Pre-JAM Fun for all ages
9:00am JAM Sessions = Bible Classes
10:00am Fellowship Time
10:30am Worship Service

www.clevelandchurch.net

OFFICE: (507) 931- 5924
GENERAL: clchurch@live.com

PRAYER CHAIN: clchurchprayer@live.com
SECRETARY Lisa Koppelman: clchurchlisa@live.com

BIRTHDAYS: July 1- Hope Ahlberg, Ken Krenik, Doug Swedberg; 7- Aarin Clough, Alisha Goettlicher, Gary Kunz; 10- Grant Den Herder; 11- Cory Brunson, Jo Rupe, James Tuma; 12- Joyce Chadderdon, Trevor Westerland; 15- JoLene Giersdorf, Mary Howells; 16- Kurt Nelson; 17- Alec Rogers, Zach Smith; 25- Steve Henze; 26- Amy Den Herder, Riley Esser, Daniel Phillips, Tony Siebert; 27- Linda Marshall (former Zimbabwe missionary), Jesse Tuma; 29- Krysti Brockberg

ANNIVERSARY: July 1- Scott & Roxanne Tuma; 7- Scott & Debra Schmidt; 8- Jim & Deb Ely; 12- Herb & Lori Moon; 13- Babu & Mercy Samuel (missionaries in India); 28- Russ & Judy Lloyd; 29- Art & Betty Davis

If you wish to no longer receive our email newsletters **OR** to update your email address, please reply to this address: clchurchnews@live.com