



A BETTER DAY IS COMING

By John Kester, Pastor

Three ideas form the core values of my belief system. I believe that God is real. I believe that He is in control of this world. I believe that He loves me. When things go smoothly in life, these ideas are pretty easy to accept. When my finances are stable and my relationships are thriving and I feel healthy and strong it is pretty easy to believe God is in control and that He loves me. But when tragedy strikes, when illness, or financial setback, or even the death of a loved one rear their ugly heads, it is easy to question these basic assumptions. Some have asked, "If God loves us, how can He allow such sorrow and pain to touch our lives." Others have wondered if God can really be in control of things when things seem so out of control. Some have even begun to question if God is real at all.

I understand the pain that generates these questions. I recognize the terrible suffering that people endure. However, I reject the idea that God has lost control or that He is somehow to blame for what has happened. These ideas come from a misunderstanding of how God interacts in our world and in our lives. God never promised us that life in this world would be without problems. In fact, Jesus said in John 16:33, "*In this world you will have trouble.*" Since Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, this world has been characterized by sorrow and pain and death. All these things exist, not because God fails to care or lacks the ability to stop them, but because sin exists and sin has consequences. This is a fallen world that is less than what we long for on a daily basis. When trouble comes, things are happening just the way that God said they would.

What we need to understand is that this world is not the sum total of existence. Jesus went on to say in the last part of John 16:33, "*But take heart! I have overcome the world.*" We dare not use the circumstances in this world as a measuring stick of God's care and love. His power and mercy are seen best, not in the events of this life but in His provision for eternity. His power is great enough that He can rescue us from this sinful world. His love is strong enough that He is willing to pay the penalty for our sins.

God never promised this life would be smooth sailing. What He did promise was that no matter what happened in this life, He would not abandon us. He promised to send His Spirit to live in us as a down payment before the day when we would stand before Him in glory in a place where all sorrow and pain and death would cease. I wonder sometimes if tragedy comes to remind us that this world is not our home and to help us learn to long for a better place not made with human hands.

So I plead with you, don't let tragedy rob you of your faith in God. Instead, let it be a reminder that this world is not where you belong. We are only strangers here. A day is coming when we will realize all the promises of God and we will be gathered home to live with Him for all eternity. On that day, there will be no question about His power or His love because we will see clearly how things really are. So in the midst of trouble and trial and tragedy, don't give up on God. Things are just like He said they would be. He has not lost control. But remember that a better day is coming. You can count on it. Trust God to keep His word. He always does.

FRIEND DAY

Friend Day has been scheduled for Sunday, September 20. Some may wonder why we go to all the work and expense of hosting this event each year. We do it because it provides an opportunity for our congregation to be a part of 4 great purposes of the church. 1) Friend Day provides an opportunity for us to join our hearts and voices with hundreds of others in praise and adoration of our Savior. 2) Friend Day gives us the perfect opportunity to invite someone who doesn't know Jesus to a place they will hear about him. 3) Friend Day allows us the chance to serve together on a project that is so big we could not do it without the combined efforts of many, many people. 4) Friend Day gives us the chance to fellowship around the table and share our lives with one another. Maybe best of all, Friend Day allows us to catch a glimpse of what this church might someday be every Sunday. Invitations are now available. Begin to make your list of people you want to join with in worship on September, 20.

ELDERS MEETING

There will be a Church Elders meeting on Sunday, September 6 at 12:30pm at the church.

BUILDING OFFERING

Our monthly building offering will be received on Sunday, September 13. Thanks to all who have faithfully given to the building fund.

DORCAS FELLOWSHIP

Dorcas Fellowship is open for all women. It meets monthly, typically on the second Tuesday of the month, in the afternoon. The Dorcas Fellowship offers a time to get together to visit but also it is a time to minister. The focus of their ministry is praying for needs they are aware of and sending cards of encouragement. Dorcas Fellowship will meet Tuesday, September 8 at 1:30pm at the church.

CHURCH BROAD MEETING

Members of the Church Board will meet on Tuesday, September 8 at 7:30pm at the church.

SEPTEMBER 2009 CALENDAR

All events are at the church building unless otherwise noted.

Indicates an article is elsewhere in this newsletter.

- PHCA "Last Chance Camp" – Sept 4-7*
- Elders meeting – Sept 6 *
- Labor Day Holiday – Sept 7
- Registration deadline is Sept 7 for Crossroads College Fall Golf Tournament in Rochester on Sept 14
- Dorcas Fellowship – Sept 8 *
- Church Board Meeting – Sept 8 *
- PHCA "Scrapbook Weekend #1 – Sept 10-13
- Building Offering – Sept 13 *
- Crossroads College Fall Golf Tournament – Sept 14, Rochester
- Monday night Bible Study – Sept 14 *
- Crossroads College Homecoming – Sept 16-18 *
- October newsletter articles due to Lisa K – Sept 17
- PHCA Scrapbook Weekend #2 – Sept 17-20
- FRIEND DAY at church – Sept 20*
- Monday night Bible Study – Sept 21 *
- HEART TO HEART item distribution – Sept 26
- Fall Kick Off for Sunday Bible classes – Sept 27
- Prayer meeting – Sept 27
- Monday night Bible Study – Sept 28 *

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

"3:16" by Max Lucado

In the first chapter of his book, Max says, ***"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."***

"A twenty-six-word parade of hope: beginning with God, ending with life, and urging us to do the same. Brief enough to write on a napkin or memorize in a moment, yet solid enough to weather two thousand years of storms and questions. If you know nothing of the Bible, start here. If you know everything in the Bible, return here. We all need the reminder. The heart of the human problem is the heart of the human. And God's treatment is prescribed in John 3:16. He loves. He gave. We believe. We live."

Come join us on Mondays at 6:30pm at the church building as we fellowship, pray and study the height and breadth and depth of God's love for us.

COMING in OCTOBER 2009

- Vikings vs. GB Football – Oct 5 *
- New Orleans Mission Trip – Oct 10-18 *
- Women of Faith Conference, St. Paul – Oct 16-17

MN vs. GB FOOTBALL GAME

On Monday, October 5, come watch the Big Game outdoors on the Big Screen at Mark and Mary Howells – 506 Division Street, Faribault. The party will start at 6:30pm. Just bring your appetites and cheering voices.

CROSSROADS COLLEGE 2009 HOMECOMING
September 16-18 in Rochester

GRICE LECTURESHIP: Three in-depth lectures on theology/ministry with guest Dr. Donald Carson, Research Professor of New Testament at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

ALUMNI BANQUET: Celebration of Crossroads' legacy and God's work, with recognition of John Enabnit ('73) as 2009 Distinguished Servant Award, and honoring classes of 1994, 1984, 1969 and 1959.

VISITATION OF CROSSROADS CLASSES: Sit in the classroom and walk the halls once again, and meet current students, professors and staff.

You thought the Fall Season was going to be dull and boring...!?! NOT SO. ...it's time to take a break, come to Crossroads, gather with friends, and see how everything is going.

THANK YOU

To All of Our Cleveland Church Friends,

Thank you for the wonderful time of fellowship on our last Sunday - the dinner, all the kind words of thanks and encouragement, the many cards and gifts - such loving, thoughtful spoken and written words.

From our first Sunday in Cleveland at the end of last October, we felt welcomed and supported. The time went by so quickly and yet we believe our purpose there was fulfilled. You are ready to move forward with God's plan for you with the arrival of John, Cheryl, and Olivia. You have also met them with open arms as we expected. We know that God will continue to bless this church in the years ahead as He has in the past.

Thank you again and we look forward to returning on Friend Day and seeing you all!
Randy & Laura Hardy

The amazing grace of the Master, Jesus Christ, the extravagant love of God, the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit, be with all of you.

2 Corinthians 13: 13

DID YOU KNOW . . .

- On Sunday, July 26, Velma Kester joined our church family and on Sunday, August 16, Mildred Wakefield joined our church family, each by transfer. We welcome Velma and Mildred into our Cleveland church family. Pray for their growth in Christ. May we all faithfully serve our LORD together.
- It has been 4 years since hurricane Katrina devastated the gulf coast. Efforts to rebuild are still ongoing. Six people from the Cleveland Church of Christ (Graydon Dickie, Laura Dickie, Judy Lloyd, David Lloyd, Pam Aanas and John Kester) are partnering with other Christians from around Minnesota and Habitat for Humanity in New Orleans to help in the rebuilding efforts. They will leave October 10 and return October 18. Please uphold this trip in prayer. There is still room to join the group, if you are interested.
- With school supplies on sale everywhere, right now is a great time to get a jump-start on your shopping for Operation Christmas Child. Something as simple as filling a shoebox with school supplies, personal care items, and toys might be the open door through which the Gospel can be shared with a child. Watch for more details in October with a November due date for package delivery.
- There are only three camp sessions left for this season? They are "Last Chance Camp – September 4-7; "Scrapbook Weekend 1 – September 10-13; and "Scrapbook Weekend 2 – September 17-20.
- The "HEART TO HEART" personal need products for children and adults are distributed the last Saturday of every month here at the church from 10:00am to Noon. If you wish to donate items to the HEART TO HEART project, information and a place to put donations are located in our church foyer. Donations are welcomed and encouraged on an ongoing basis. Thank you for your help in this ministry!

FEATURED MISSION:

African Harvest - Zimbabwe

African Harvest - Zimbabwe is the ministry of Fanny & Martha Nyamutora. They, and their three sons, Simba, Mark and Joshua live in Gweru, Zimbabwe, which is a bit south of physical center of Zimbabwe, Africa.



Fanny & Martha are dedicated to assisting and training the leadership of the church in Zimbabwe and in the neighboring countries in southern Africa, e.g., Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and South Africa.

Fanny and Martha both grew up in the church in Zimbabwe. Fanny went to Zimbabwe Christian College to train to be a pastor and Martha trained at Mashoko Christian Hospital to be a nurse.

They married in 1987, the year following Fanny's call to become minister with Harare Christian Church in Harare, Zimbabwe. Their successful ministry at the church of over 600 continued until they went to the USA in 2001 for further education in preparation for their future ministry of training Christian leaders.

In the USA, Fanny graduated from Crossroads College in Rochester, MN with a BA, and then added graduate studies at Hope International University in California. They returned to their work in Zimbabwe at that point. Last fall, Fanny & Martha came to Minnesota for a few months and several of us had a chance to meet them when they visited our congregation on October 19, 2008. They led the Sunday Bible class hour and Fanny preached for the morning worship service. Our Cleveland church leaders voted at the July 2009 Church Board meeting to begin the monthly regular support of African Harvest - Zimbabwe.



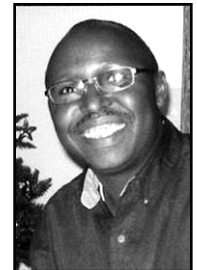
Fanny writes on their website www.zimharvest.org:

"The greatest need for churches in Zimbabwe is leadership development. The church leaders are the key people who bring positive changes within and around the church.

It is with this hope that I (started) a Church leadership ministry to grow leaders who love the Lord and who also would love to develop their leadership skills.

In this Leadership Ministry, the churches will grow in spirit, in numbers, in planting new churches and in our influence within and beyond our nation.

I believe the church's role within any nation is to be influential by being salt and light within the reality of the world in which people live."



In response to our recent decision to support African Harvest - Zimbabwe, Fanny emailed on August 6, 2009:

MISSIONS and the CLEVELAND CHURCH OF CHRIST

As a congregation, we financially support monthly the following missions:

- African Harvest-Zimbabwe (Zimbabwe, Africa)
- Christian Student Fellowship in St. Paul, MN (USA)
- Crossroads College in Rochester, MN (USA)
- Dale & Linda Marshall, missionaries to Zimbabwe (Africa), retired
- Grace Christian Ministry in India (Asia)
- Minnesota Christian Evangelizing Association – Minnesota (USA)

Seasonally, and otherwise, we have a tradition of also supporting the following missions:

- Cleveland Food Shelf
- Cleveland Ministerial Fund
- HEART to HEART
- IDES - International Disaster Emergency Services
- Kids Against Hunger
- Lifeline Christian Mission
- Minnesota Christian Convention
- Orphan's Lifeline of Hope International
- Pine Haven Christian Assembly
- Samaritan's Purse / Operation Christmas Child
- Student Scholarships to a Bible College
- The Gideons
- World Vision

We support other causes as the needs come. If you would like to know about one of these missions and/or other giving opportunities, view our foyer displays or ask our pastor John Kester or one of our elders.

"We praise God for (the) Cleveland Church for (pledging to) our support. God bless (you). It will go a long way in our ministry here. Be blessed today."

NEWS about CARTER KERN

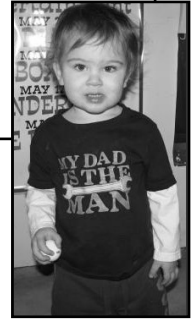
Two-year-old Carter Kern of the Cleveland Church of Christ family was diagnosed with leukemia on August 2, 2009. Carter's type of leukemia is called ALL, short for Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia which is also known as acute lymphoblastic leukemia and acute childhood leukemia.

He faces three years of intense medical treatment. Please keep Carter, his parents Rich & Becky, and siblings Austin, Alisha, Emily and Asia in your prayers. Carter's grandparents are Glen & Sandy O'Connor of Cleveland and Dick & Bonnie Kern of Mankato.

Carter's website includes information about 2 upcoming cancer benefits for him and a list of what the family needs which is to be updated weekly. Visit www.gocarter.homestead.com.

For Carter health updates, and to email Carter personal greetings, see www.caringbridge.org/visit/carterkern.

Carter Kern
PO Box 343
Cleveland MN 56017



CARTER KERN CANCER BENEFIT

Matching funds provided by THRIVENT (up to \$2500)

Saturday, September 26, 2009
Red Men Club, St. Peter, MN

Silent Auction 3-8 pm

Bingo starts at 4 pm (Must be 18 to play Bingo)

Dinner 4-8 pm (Donations accepted)

Music by KBE (Kern Brothers Entertainment) after Bingo

Raffle Drawing 8 pm

\$10.00 donation per raffle ticket – cash prizes

Purchase raffle tickets at the benefit or anytime at
St. Peter Hometown Bank (PO Box 388) or
Cleveland Hometown Bank (PO Box 249)

Cash donations also accepted at these banks
in the "Friends of Carter Kern Fund"

Contact the following to help or to contribute toward the benefit:

- Sell and/or purchase raffle tickets before event:**
Becca Kennedy 507-382-2346 jbhc@hickorytech.net
- Serve or cleanup dinner or assist with bingo:**
Terri Thelen 507-317-1368 tk777@msn.com
- Donate bars or cookies to be served at benefit dinner:**
Sandy Krenik 507-931-2427 kskren@hickorytech.net
- Donate silent auction item(s):**
Trisha Skajewski 218-269-3173 trisha.skajewski@yahoo.com
Can be a basket or a single item; can be dropped off at either Hometown Bank; please indicate value of item(s).
- "Go Carter" T-shirts, buttons, and bracelets** will be available at the benefits, Cleveland home football games, and through the contact number posted on Carter's website www.gocarter.homestead.com.

If you have questions, you may also contact:

Laura Bowman 952-693-3038 laura_e_bowman@yahoo.com
Sandy O'Connor soconn@stonebarrier.com

KERN FAMILY NEEDS

Updated by Carter's Mom on 08-24-2009

This list will be updated from time to time. Check the foyer table at church for updates noting the "Update" date to know if needs are current or not.

- Prayers
- Huggies Overnights (size 6)
- Fragrance-free wipes
- Dreft brand laundry detergent
- Fragrance-free fabric softener
- Clorox (or other brand)
- disinfectant wipes (lavender scent)
- Gas cards
- Paper towels
- Paper plates, napkins, cups
- Individual sized snacks

If you would like to channel a donation through our church, please leave your item(s) in the church foyer or a check can be made to the Cleveland Church of Christ with "Kerns" jotted on the memo line.

THANK YOU for helping the Kerns!

1ST ANNUAL

"TEAM CARTER" 5K RUN/WALK

Saturday, October 17, 2009
9 am Start Time

Cleveland Pubic School
Cleveland, MN

All individuals and families are invited to participate in the activities.

5K Run/Walk (strollers welcome!)
including a **Kid Stroll**

Kids Activities at 9:30am
with games, treats & balloon release

Music by KBE DJ
Kern Brothers Entertainment DJ

Coming: More details about this benefit.

BIRTHDAYS: September 4– Grace Samuel (India missionary daughter), Lenny Schmidt; 5– Cody Brunson; 6– Ashley Huettl Anderson; 7– Rachel Heldberg; 9– Vadis Rozsa, KJ Schmidt; 13– Amanda Heck; 15– Ardis Ely; 16– Michelle Smith; 18– Linda Bloom; 20– Bill Anderson, Joycelyn Chadderdon; 21– Del Brunson; 26– Mike Ely, Curt Janovsky

ANNIVERSARIES: September 5– Linda & Bill Bloom; 7– Shon & Michelle Smith; 9– Julie & Tony Dittrich, Ken & Sandy Krenik; 11– Bruce & Rose Oles; 20– Rich & Becky Kern; 21– Roxanne & Eric Goodrich; 23– Brian & Kelly Esser; 30– Mike & Selena Ely

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

9:00am Bible Classes for All Ages

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

You may receive our monthly newsletter via email each month.

Just email us a note to below address to request it.

If you wish to no longer receive our email newsletters

OR to update your email address,
please reply to this address: clchurchnews@live.com