

About this January 2010 newsletter format:

This newsletter is in the same working format as the mailed version is laid out. What this means to you is that the opening cover page of the newsletter is on the final page of this document, so look for it there.

# MISSIONARY GREETINGS

## GRACE CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

December 2009

Greetings from Kerala, India

In 2010, GCM will be celebrating 10 years of pioneering and mission activities throughout Kerala region and beyond. God has been incredibly faithful. Over last 10 years, He has multiplied staff, children, students and ministries. We have been humbled seeing God touch the lives of tens of thousands of people. He has been faithful in fulfilling every step of obedience he has ever led us in. God's direction and leadership has been a very secure place for us.

And yet, as we approach the next 10 years, we know that there is so much more to do. We believe there is literally tens of thousands of young people about to come and take their place in Missions. Hundreds of hopeless children are to be given a life full of hope and thousand of souls are to be added to His kingdom. With this in mind, we are determined to work hard whatever problem we face and decided to pressing on to win many for His kingdom.

We are very grateful for your kindness and support given thus far and we are very proud to say that whatever we achieved for the Lord is the fruits of your prayers and financial support. We would like to invite you to pray about your continuous partner in Grace Christian Ministry's development. Your financial partnership will pave the way for the multiplication of Missionaries and fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Warmest wishes to you and yours loved ones for a happy, healthy Christmas/holiday season.

Thank you, sincerely,

Babu and Mercy B Samuel

## AFRICAN HARVEST – ZIMBABWE

December 21, 2009

Merry Christmas from Zimbabwe

We had a Christmas party for our church yesterday and it went very well. We had our children and the youth do some dramas on the birth of Christ. I preached on the faith of Mary the mother of Jesus and encouraging young people to be faithful in all their ways. Today, Monday (December 21), we go to Harare for a family wedding on Tuesday, December 22. On December 23, we drive to our rural home to join my mother for Christmas.

Merry Christmas,

Fanny & Martha Nyamutora & the boys

## DALE & LINDA MARSHALL, RETIRED

MISSIONARIES TO ZIMBABWE (now in Idaho, USA)

GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF JESUS

December 2009

We are loving the glistening white snow, a beautiful sight we have not seen for many years. No fans running to keep us cool and hope for rain to beat the heat spell this Christmas. It seems more like Christmas, something we have longed for and now it is ours to enjoy.

Dale and Linda are thankful for our comfortable home in Meridian, Idaho. We continue to worship with the Ten Mile Christian Church, which is a short drive from our house. Wednesday morning we attend the seniors Bible Study and fellowship time. Wednesday evening we open our home to a small group of high school boys for a time of Bible Study and "tea time" (drink and snack). A senior student from Boise Bible College leads the evening.

We have begun the process of writing our life story with the help of a friend. We are blending our mission newsletters with our in-between the lines additional stories. Our goal is to have it finished by this time next year.

Dale's health continues to be a problem. He is seeing good doctors and attends an exercise class twice a week. At the church we attend, there are two other men who have Parkinson's disease and they enjoy visiting with each other.

Thank you for each one who continues to keep in touch with us. We appreciate your support and encouragement and enjoy hearing news from you. We understand and are deeply saddened that the things happening in Zimbabwe continue as when we left.

We wish you a blessed Christmas and may the New Year lead to better and safe things for our friends and family in Zimbabwe.

You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Dale and Linda Marshall



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JANUARY 2010

All events are at the church building unless otherwise noted.

\* Indicates an article is elsewhere in this newsletter.

- January 3 – Randy Hardy preaching
- January 3 – Teens Gathering at Christensens' 4pm
- January 10 – Monthly Building Offering
- January 12 – Church Board Meeting 7:30pm
- January 13, 20, 27 – Bible Study  
"Love and Respect" 6:30 – 8:00pm\*
- January 21, 28 – Bible Study 1:00pm\*
- January 21 – February newsletter articles due
- January 30 – Heart to Heart distribution 10am-Noon

### COMING IN FEBRUARY 2010

- February 5 & 6 – *Acquire the Fire*,  
Minneapolis Convention Center,  
Friday start 7pm – Saturday end 9:30 pm
- February 28 – Minnesota Teen Challenge  
presentation during worship service

# THANK YOU

Dear Friends –

Cheryl, Olivia and I would like to thank the congregation for the generous Christmas gift. We would also like to thank all the individuals who shared thoughtful and kind gifts at Christmas. We are blessed to have so many new friends who are sharing their lives with us. God bless you all.

John Kester

### LOVE AND RESPECT

Beginning on Wednesday, January 13 an exciting new Small Group Study will be offered here at the church building 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Gary and Deb Guentzel will be facilitating a study called *Love and Respect* that focuses on developing marriages where both wives and husbands have their deepest needs met.

In this video series, we will explore many differences between men and women and see that if men would love their wives as the Bible instructs and women would respect their husbands as the Bible teaches, we would have happier and healthier marriages.

### NEW BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY



Beginning on Thursday, January 21 a new Bible study opportunity will be offered here at the church. At 1:00 p.m., we will gather to listen to scripture on tape. We will start with the Gospel of Mark. Our agenda will be to listen to 20-30 minutes of scripture. Then we will spend another 30-45 minutes talking about what we have heard. If you are interested in listening to the word of God together with other people, come on Thursday afternoons to the church.

### DID YOU KNOW...

- Matt and Kristen (Fahning) Zarling have are the parents of a son, Joshua William. He was born December 3, 2009, and weighed 9 lbs. 8 oz. Proud grandparents are Wayne and Marilyn Fahning.
- 14 people went Christmas caroling on December 20.
- The youth are planning a fundraiser sometime in January. Watch the bulletin for details.
- That about 15 teens are planning on attending the Acquire the Fire youth festival.

### DORCAS FELLOWSHIP

The ladies of the Dorcas Circle will be taking a break for the winter months of January, February and March. They will resume in the spring.

**SNACKS NEEDED** for the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Fellowship Time. Sign up on the list on the church kitchen counter. Bring 6-8 dozen snack items. Volunteers



are responsible for setting up, serving and cleaning up on your service day.

### PRAYER CHAIN NEWS

Our prayer chain is alive and well! If you know of a need and wish to have prayer support, don't hesitate to contact our prayer chain lead volunteer. You may email your request to [clchurchprayer@live.com](mailto:clchurchprayer@live.com) or call Betty Lloyd at 931-5947 to leave a message. You may also call the church office at 931-5924. If you would like to join this ministry as a prayer volunteer, contact Betty to learn about options for serving in this work.

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

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

9:00 a.m. – Bible Classes for all ages  
10:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time  
10:30 a.m. – Worship Service

Church Website: [www.clevelandchurch.net](http://www.clevelandchurch.net)  
Office Phone: (507) 931-5924  
Office Email: [clchurch@live.com](mailto:clchurch@live.com)  
Prayer Chain: [clchurchprayer@live.com](mailto:clchurchprayer@live.com)

**OUR HEAD:** Jesus Christ

**PASTOR:** John Kester

**CHURCH SECRETARY:** Lisa Koppelman

**BIRTHDAYS:** January 1– Ethan Muell; 2– Ryan Chadderdon, Lois Lloyd, Patti Zuelch; 4– Sandy Schmidt; 5– Izze Christensen, Eddie Hall, Andrea Hoffman, Asia Kern; 7– Becca Draeger; 8– Noah Schettler; 12– Ciara Guentzel; 13– Mary Meyer; 16– Rubens Tyne (VBS sponsored child in Haiti); 18– Jolene Christensen, Laura Dickie; 19– Art Poll; 24– Troy Miller; 25– Sam Samuel (Missionary son in India); 29– Selena Ely; 30– Gunnar Janovsky, Matthew Phillips, Michael Phillips

**ANNIVERSARY:** January 8– Dale & Liz Rogers

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**



# CHURCH OF CHRIST MEETING IN CLEVELAND, MN

JANUARY 2010  
Vol. 28 No. 1



## The Words of Life

By John Kester, Pastor

I met a man several years ago who confided to me that he could not read. A severe case of dyslexia had frustrated his efforts to read his whole life. My heart went out to him for many reasons. I know his disability will limit the kind of jobs he will be able to hold. No matter how hard he works, there will be career opportunities that will pass him by because he cannot read. I felt bad that he would never have the privilege of losing himself in the pages of an exciting mystery or go to a foreign land by means of a travelogue or learn from the experiences of others in a well-written biography. I have spent countless thousands of hours in quiet enjoyment of a good book and this man will never know that kind of joy.

But the more I thought about it the more I came to realize that these were minor problems compared to another he faces. This man does not have the luxury of reading the pages of scripture to find out about Jesus and how to live to please Him. When he faces a tough time in life, he will not be able to go to his Bible and find words of comfort. When he is confused, he won't be able to turn to the Bible and find direction. When he is lonely, he won't be able to read about a forever friend.

As I thought about the challenges before this man, two things came to my mind. The first was that I am enormously blessed. Since I was 5 years old, I have been able to read the words of scripture for myself. I have reveled in the stories of the Old Testament heroes like Abraham and Joseph and Moses and David. I have been led to worship God through the beauty of the words of the Psalms. I have found meaning and purpose and direction for my life through the words of Jesus and His apostles. I have found comfort in times of deepest sorrow. God has blessed me greatly by sharing His word with me.

But I also began to realize my responsibility too. There are people like the man I mentioned earlier who cannot share in the blessings of the word of God unless someone like me, who has been privileged to read it and come to love it, shares it with them. And then I realized that my responsibility extends well beyond those who have a disability, but also to those who have never taken the opportunity to read the Bible. There are a lot of people who haven't experienced the blessing of the word of God and who probably never will unless I share it with them. They don't know that the Bible is not just another book unless I show them that it contains the very words of life.

One day, Jesus had offered some hard teachings and the crowd began to drift away. Jesus asked the twelve apostles if they were going to leave too, and Peter said a profound thing. He said, **"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."** These words of life have come to us through the pages of scripture. If we love these words, it is our job to share these words with those who have not or cannot read them for themselves so they can also know the blessings of God's Word.