



REFLECTED LIGHT

By John Kester, Pastor

I viewed with wonder the brilliance of the full moon last night. It was so bright I was tempted, as I sometimes am, to turn the lights out on the van and drive by the light of the moon. I think it was bright enough that you could have done it safely. But common sense prevailed and we left the lights on. I did however stop and think a bit about the light of the moon.

I know as brilliant as the moon seemed last night that the moon produces no light of its own. It is nothing more than a giant hunk of rock. It lacks the capability to shine through its own power. The light I saw last night was not really the light of the moon at all. It was the reflected light of the sun. And while it seemed that the moon was brilliant and beautiful last night, it really only appeared that way because of where it was in relationship to the sun. During certain parts of the lunar cycle the earth stands between the sun and the moon and the moon does not shine at all. It is only when it is in proper relationship to both the sun and the earth that we see the moon reflect the glory of the sun.

It makes me smile when I think about how God designed the natural world to reflect spiritual reality. The sun, the moon, and the earth present a beautiful picture of God, the church, and people who do not know the Savior. Scripture tells us that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5). Just like the sun, God is the source of light. He brings light to dark places. He makes clear what was formerly obscure. He reveals what was hidden. You would think that the brilliance of God's light would be enough to bring people out of darkness. But just like in the physical world, there are times when there is need for God's light to be reflected before people recognize its glory. That is the job of the church.

Jesus told His followers that they were the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). That is an interesting thing to announce because we know there is nothing truly good in us at all. We produce no light of our own. We are like the moon. We only produce light that people can see when we stand in proper relationship to God. The only way we can be the light of the world is when we reflect the light that God produces. When we stand in the proper place the brilliance of God's light shines through us and people catch a glimpse of the glory of God. And when we stand in the wrong place the light is extinguished and people fail to realize the wonder of God's glorious light.

I hope you will stand in the proper place. Stand where the glory of God can shine on you. Never get too far from Him. But it is important to stand close enough to dark places so that the reflected light of God can shine through you to illuminate the darkness. When we get it right it is beautiful thing. Like the moon the other night, we can produce beauty that comes not from us, but from the One who is light Himself.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 2013

All events are at the church building unless otherwise noted.

* Indicates more info is elsewhere in this newsletter.

- Sep 2 – Labor Day Holiday
- Sep 7 – Men's Fellowship at 7:30am
- Sep 8 – Monthly Building Offering
- Sep 10 – Dorcas Fellowship at 1:30pm
- Sep 10 – Church Board meeting at 7:30pm
- Sep 11 – Ladies Bible Study at 6:30pm
- Sep 13 – Youth 5th Quarter Get Together
- Sep 14-21 – Mission Trip to Cookson Hills
Christian Ministries in Kansas, OK
www.cooksonhills.org
- Sep 15 – Our annual FRIEND DAY *
- Sep 18 – Ladies Bible Study at 6:30pm *
- Sep 19 – Have Oct newsletter items to Lisa
- Sep 19 – Ladies Night Out
- Sep 19 – Kids Sunday School Classes begin
(grades K-12); Adult classes meeting also *
- Sep 25 – Ladies Bible Study at 6:30pm *
- Sep 27 – 8 HOURS OF PRAYER *

LONG RANGE PLANNING

- Oct 2 – Ladies Bible Study at 6:30pm *
- Oct 3-5 – Crossroads College "Centennial Celebration"
Rochester, MN www.crossroadscollege.edu
- Oct 5 – Men's Fellowship at 7:30am
- Oct 8 – Dorcas Fellowship at 1:30pm
- Oct 8 – Church Board meeting at 7:30pm
- Oct 9,16,23,30 – Ladies Bible Study at 6:30pm *
- Oct 13 – Missionaries Fanny & Martha Nyamutora
of Zimbabwe with us
- Oct 13 – Monthly Building Offering
- Oct 18-19 – Women of Faith Conference, Xcel
Energy Center, St. Paul, MN
www.womenoffaith.com/events/believe-god-can-do-anything-st-paul-mn
- Nov 3 – International Day of Prayer for the
Persecuted Church www.persecutedchurch.org
- Nov 18-25 – Operation Christmas Child
National Collection Week

BIRTHDAYS: September 4- Grace Samuel (missionary daughter in India), Lenny Schmidt; 7- Rachel Heldberg; 15- Brandon Duciaume, Ardis Ely; 17- Brad Will; 20- Bill Anderson, Jocelyne Chadderdon; 21- Del Brunson; 26- Mike Ely, Fritzner Ideas (VBS sponsored child in Haiti)

ANNIVERSARIES: September 9- Tony & Julie Dittrich, Ken & Sandy Krenik; 11- Bruce & Rose Oles; 20- Rich & Becky Kern; 21- Eric & Roxanne Goodrich; 23- Brian & Kelly Esser; 30- Mike & Selena Ely



Congratulations to Evan Koppelman, Karen Rogers, Alec Rogers and Shane Rogers on their baptism on Sunday, August 4, 2013. Please pray for their continued growth in Christ.



Evan – Shane – Pastor John K – Karen – Alec

FRIEND DAY 2013



It is only a couple of weeks until our annual Friend Day worship service. On Sunday, September 15th, the Cleveland Church of Christ will host our annual Friend Day worship service. This day of worship and fellowship gives us the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with many of our friends and neighbors. A couple of months ago I challenged a Sunday morning crowd to make a list of 10 or more people that they wanted to invite to Friend Day. I hope that many people accepted the challenge to think about who they would like to join us for this special day. If you haven't made your list yet, it is not too late. Sit down right now and make a list of people you want to include on your Friend Day list. Printed invitations are available at church on the foyer table and also a PDF invitation can be downloaded from our church website.

It takes a lot of people, working hard, to make Friend Day a success. Beyond inviting your friends, would you consider volunteering to help with the arrangements for the day? We need people in the kitchen. We need people to help set up tables and chairs. We need people to help in the parking lot. We need people to participate in the worship service. Please don't wait to be asked to help. Consider volunteering to help make this day a success. When we all help we have an outstanding day.

FRIEND DAY SIGN UP SHEETS

There are several opportunities to serve in connection with our Friend Day service on September 15. Please sign up on the lists in the church foyer if you are able to help with food or in the kitchen. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Chicken, Potatoes, Baked Beans, Dinner Rolls & Beverages will be provided.



www.pinehavencamp.org

With summer coming to an end, there are still a two opportunities to participate at PHCA. Last Chance Camp will be held on Labor Day weekend, Aug 30-Sept 2. For those of you who enjoy scrapbooking, there will be a session that you can attend September 5-8.

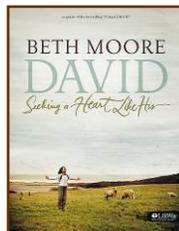
PAM AANAS'S FAREWELL



Pam Aanas has sold her house in Le Center and will be moving to Hastings, Nebraska soon. On September 8, we are going to host a going away party for her during our 10:00am Fellowship Time. Pam has been a willing servant in so many ways in our congregation. She has taught children, organized our Operation Christmas Child efforts, visited the sick and the elderly, transported people to doctor's appointments, organized fellowship events and gone on numerous mission trips just to name a few of the ministries she has been involved in. Make a point to be here on September 8 to wish her well in her new home.

BETH MOORE BIBLE STUDY

We are excited to offer another Beth Moore Bible Study for the ladies starting on September 11. Beth Moore is a dynamic teacher and author and is passionate about women knowing and loving the Word of God. The study will run for eleven weeks and will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00pm. Each session includes a teaching video by Beth Moore and would be beneficial for new as well as more mature Christians. The study will be on "David: Seeking a Heart Like His." If you have ever experienced doubts, temptations, losses, family problems or personal inconsistencies, this study is for you! There will be a cost of \$15 for the book. There is a signup sheet on the table in the church foyer. If you have questions or want more information, talk to Sandy Krenik.



KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are excited to announce the return of kids Sunday School on September 22. Ellen Dickie will be leading a class for elementary age children and John Kester will be teaching a class for 7-12 graders. Classes for adults are meeting also. Make it a family learning experience. Begin to make plans now to be part of these exciting groups!



5TH QUARTER

We will be hosting a youth get-together following the Cleveland football game on Friday, September 13. For only \$3 teens in grades 7-12 can come to our church building and have pizza and pop and play games or just hang out with their friends. This event will begin after the conclusion of the football game and end at 11:00 pm.



YOUTH GROUP PLANS

Discussions are being held as we plan for a Junior and Senior High Youth Group this school year. We are looking forward to spending time together participating in fun events and also thinking about what it means to be a true follower of Jesus. We hope teens will come and bring friends to youth group. We also are looking for adults who might be willing to help with events like 5th Quarter Get Togethers after football games or other special events in their homes.



8 HOURS OF PRAYER

Devotion to God in prayer is the lifeblood of a church. We are blessed at the Cleveland Church of Christ to have a number of people who are committed to regular and diligent prayer on behalf of our congregation and for individuals who are in need and who offer prayers of humility and contrition. Prayers like these help our congregation focus on what God wants us to do. On Friday, September 27th, we are going to try to expand the prayer ministry of our congregation by holding an 8 hour prayer emphasis.

Here is how this prayer emphasis will work. We are planning to have at least 1 person praying from 1 pm to 9 pm in 15 minute shifts. We will have a sign-up sheet and we are asking people to sign up for one or more slots of prayer during this 8 hour time period. If you would like to come to the church and pray we will have a PowerPoint show with quiet music scrolling through with numerous prayer ideas to help in your prayers. If you want to stay at home or maybe even on a break at work you are welcome to do that if it works better for you. You can pray alone or you can pray with a partner or even a team of praying people.

Many times we wonder what we can do personally to help our church and to impact our community. This is something you can do. You can pray. It takes no special skills to pray. This is something a brand new Christian or a 50 year veteran can do. This is something even a young child can do. We are excited about this prayer effort and we hope many people will take part in this effort. Watch for the sign-up and indicate your willingness to pray.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Cleveland, MN 56017 www.clevelandchurch.net

OUR HEAD: Jesus Christ
PASTOR: John Kester
CHURCH SECRETARY: Lisa Koppelman

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 am – Bible Classes for Adults June-August
9:00 am – Bible Classes for K-Adults Sept 22 on
10:00 am – Fellowship Time
10:30 am – Worship Service including Junior Church

Link to prior monthly newsletters
for the Cleveland Church of Christ
http://www.clevelandchurch.net/index.php?p=1_212



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

If you haven't already begun to purchase gifts for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes now is the perfect time. School supply sales are on and it's the perfect time to purchase those items for shoeboxes. If we begin now we can fill hundreds of shoeboxes by November. This is an awesome way to show the love of Christ to children thousands of miles away.



From Operation Christmas Child

Gift SUGGESTIONS

- **SCHOOL SUPPLIES:** Pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.
- **TOYS:** Small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch,® toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky,® etc.
- **HYGIENE ITEMS:** Toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.
- **OTHER:** T-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries)
- **A PERSONAL NOTE:** You may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. (If you include your name and address, the child may write back.)
- **DO NOT INCLUDE:** Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out- of-date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

www.samaritanpurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box/