



NEW LIFE NEWS

The official newsletter for New Life Presbyterian Church • September 2009

MORNING BY MORNING NEW MERCIES I SEE

By Katie Dimwiddie

Something that I have been pondering a lot lately is just how merciful God really is. Because of His mercy I have eternity to spend with Jesus, spared from the fires of hell. And in Christ, I have countless spiritual blessings and an amazing inheritance. Therefore, any other mercy that is granted to me now is a mercy on top of the greatest mercy ever bestowed. So even if God didn't shower me with mercies as I travel, mercies as I teach, mercies of providing for me a God-honoring family, food, clothing, and shelter, etc., He would still be more merciful than I could ever fathom. He really grants unbelievable, unfathomable mercy...like mercy to the power of infinity.

I have witnessed so many of these extra mercies within the last few weeks. As for traveling mercies, all forty hours of traveling to Lilongwe, Malawi went smoothly—my luggage even made it here with me! I have experienced His mercies in ministry as I teach math and build relationships with the students at ABC Christian Academy. I've seen mercies of protection each time I've been out on the roads learning how to drive "left stick" over the potholes while Malawians aimlessly step out into the roads. And, I have experienced mercy as God has allowed me to witness and participate in His glory being declared among the nations.

God is merciful to use even the hard things here to show me who I am, and who He is. Volunteers are welcome anytime to love orphaned babies at the Crisis Nursery (a work of Ministry of Hope), to play with them, feed them, and pray over them. Many of the babies

have AIDS. Some will be adopted, and others may return to relatives when they can afford to take care of them.

My heart weeps for these babies. When I arrived to the nursery, there were eighteen, all starved for attention. I was handed Teresa, a three-week old. She was so helpless. Her eyes were full of fear. There was no sound from her crying, but big tear drops trickled out of her eyes, and rolled down her tiny face. I gave her a bottle, which she drank up very fast. Then I hugged her tightly, and she fell asleep on me!

These little babies are so helpless and dependent.

And that's just how we, as God's children, are.

Dependent on our heavenly Father for everything.

Grace? Most definitely.

Love? Positively.

His promises? Yes and amen.

His forgiveness, His mercy, His faithfulness, His compassion...His Son, our Savior.

Salvation.

What a reminder to pray for these babies in their plight, but also to remember the plight in which we were. But by His mercy and love 'he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ...'

We are not to be babes in our thinking, but we are to depend on Him as a baby would! Flee to Him, cry to Him, pour out your heart to Him, seek Him for your needs...depend on Him. He is merciful and He cares for and loves His own.

I miss you, New Life! Thank you for all of your prayers, words of encouragement, provision, and crash courses in teaching. You are yet another example of God's mercy to me, and I thank Him for all of you! ☛

WOMEN'S RETREAT 2009!!

What does 24 hours of Christ centered worship, gifted teaching, wonderful fellowship, fine dining, tranquil surroundings, as well as no dishes, vacuuming, cooking, scrubbing toilets, or running errands equal?

Women's Retreat 2009!!

This year we are blessed to sit under the teaching of Rebecca Jones, a gifted writer and speaker. Rebecca is the daughter of Dr. Edmund Clowney and wife to Dr. Peter Jones. She is a graduate of Wellesley College and has sat on the board of The San Diego Christian Writers Guild.

The title of this year's teaching is *Him We Proclaim: A Woman's Guide to Evangelism*. This teaching will speak to women of all ages and vocations.

Our venue this year is Calvary Chapel Conference Center in Murrieta. Instead of pine trees and mountain air, we'll be meandering along walkways past therapeutic hot springs and a shimmering lake both gracefully adorned by lavish palms.

So ladies...ARE YOU READY? ☛



Did You Know? Who was born in Nicaragua? Answer on page 4

DAVID'S ROAD TO NEW LIFE

By Arthalie Okken

From the time Dave was a very young boy, he was aware of God's presence in his life. He would reflect on Bible stories with questions and insights beyond his years. He recognized his dependence on the Lord, whether it was to help him catch a fish or to hit a baseball in a Little League game. One day after a game he threw his glove in disgust and said, "I asked the Lord to help me hit the ball, and I struck out!" Seizing a teachable moment, I suggested that the Lord uses our disappointments to develop character. He replied, "I learned character the first time I struck out. Why did God let me strike out twice?"

When he was about ten years old, I found him lying on his bunk bed thoughtfully looking at a picture of a famine stricken African child clipped from the morning paper. His comment was, "You know, its like I'm a millionaire because I was born here in a land where I have all the food I want." Later, I noticed that picture taped to the refrigerator door. Perhaps the seeds of concern and compassion for Africans hungry for God's Word were taking root even at that young age.

Dave continued to be active at our church. Like many boys, he went through stages of mischievous behavior and usually got caught. The Lord had plans for Dave's life, and with mercy and grace He worked in his heart. In Dave's late teens he became active in leadership in our church, later switched his major in college to linguistics, and became involved in serious Bible studies. It was through these studies that Dave began to embrace reformed theology. He and his father enjoyed many discussions. One day Dave told us he was thinking of moving his membership to New Life Orthodox Presbyterian Church, and he asked our blessing to do so.

Through the influence of Pastor George Maladin and other staff

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members and after much Bible study and prayer, Dave felt led to attend Westminster Seminary and eventually became a part of the staff at New Life. The members at New Life loved and supported him as he developed his preaching, teaching and leadership skills. When teaching a membership class, Dave met Sunshine Wynott, a sweet and lovely Christian girl from a godly family. Conversations at Miladins'

New Year's Eve party and Soup Nights at the Verdicks led to romance. They were married about a year later.

Imagine our delight as parents to watch David's ordination and then his and Sunshine's commissioning as missionaries of the OPC. (I remember thinking, "He's our boy, but he is God's man.") How grateful we were for the Lord's leading in his life. Again, the congregation at New Life loved, prayed for, supported, and sent Dave and Sunshine to Karamoja, Uganda, Africa where they have served the Lord since 2001. Caleb, Megan and Jacob make the family complete. What a privilege to have recently visited the Okkens in Karamoja, to be part of their every day life and see the work God is doing through these servants. To God be the glory! 🌟

WILLKOMMEN, LILLI ADELYN!

By Sherrene David

One of the newest members of our covenant community was born in Germany to Thadd and Laura Davis on August 5 at 7:42 p.m. She weighed in at eight lbs. five oz. and was 20 inches long. After an unexpectedly long delivery, both mother and daughter are doing well. Lilli is in good health, basking in the love of her family both near and far. When you think of her name, remember that it means "Beautiful Child of the King," and join her parents in prayer that she would grow to be a godly young lady who exudes the beauty of her Savior and points to Christ, her King. Pray also for her parents as they adjust to new responsibilities and strive to put the gospel on display in their family.

When will we meet the little darling? Lord willing, the Davis family will be in San Diego for the month of January. In fact, they are looking for a furnished apartment as they take some time to connect with people and introduce Lilli to the community. If you know of any situation that could meet this need, please let the church office know as soon as possible.

Thadd recently taught English at a camp in Spain where he was able to build more relationships and connect with kids. For more information on the Davis family, visit their website www.wereonamission.org.

Let us rejoice with Thadd and Laura over the birth of their baby girl, as well as the work God is doing in Germany, Spain, and all the earth. 🌟



THE JOURNEY OF MISSIONS AT NEW LIFE

By Dean Abbott

Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. — Psalm 127:1

Since joining the PCA five years ago, New Life has seen a dramatic increase in missions activity and interest. Missions giving has more than doubled during that time, and the number of missionaries that we support financially on a regular basis has increased from two to ten without even counting short-term missions and several other missionaries or organizations we pray for on a regular basis.

We are blessed to be able to support missionaries who represent a broad range of geographical locations (Africa, Asia, Middle East, Europe, Central America) and ministry types (friendship evangelism, discipleship, seminary training, Bible translation, publication of Christian literature, and ministries of mercy), always with an eye toward planting Biblical churches.

This growth not a result of clever marketing, nor is it an accidental occurrence. The Lord has brought missions-minded brothers and sisters to New Life, and He brings the increase in missions success here and abroad. Yet the means through which He brings this increase is from the giving of time, talent, and finances to missions-minded individuals and organizations, and it is our prayer that the increase also increase!

One means through which the momentum can continue is through the World Missions Week coming from October 3-11. Hugh Wessel (France) will be preaching morning and evening of the 4th, and missionaries from our area will join with Hugh and his wife Martine in our regular activities during the week at New Life to help us all see better what He is doing around the world, culminating on the 11th with a sermon on Faith Promise (Biblical giving

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and generosity) by Mark Roessler, pastor of Catalina Foothills Church in Tucson, AZ. May God grant us bigger hearts to see His name glorified among the nations. ☛



“Conviction without experience makes for harshness.”

—Flannery O'Connor
The Habit of Being: Letters of Flannery O'Connor

New Life's
WORLD MISSIONS WEEK

OCTOBER 3-11, 2009

But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'
For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." —Matthew 9:13

PACHYDERMS ON THE ROOF

By Jon Verdick

If you attend the Senior Bible Study on Tuesdays, you know what I am talking about. If you are an intern, you definitely know what I am talking about and have probably feared for your life. Pastor Tallman vacated his office for a few days because he was concerned about a pachyderm crashing onto his desk. He did not seem to be interested in ascertaining whether it was an Asian or African elephant. I know Betsy Smith from IBCD heard elephants on the roof. If you were at Grossmont Chuck E. Cheese on July 18th you may have been kidnapped by Katie Dinwiddie and spirited off to VBS this summer (where you had an extraordinarily good time). If so, you would have heard the elephants on the roof. In addition, several families of woodpeckers have established their homes on the roof and have made their presence known more than a few times. Other new sounds around New Life might have originated from a small herd of gazelles, or maybe it was zebras. (Unexplainably, the Orrs, who live at New Life, never noticed a thing, oblivious to all the interesting sights and sounds in their own backyard.)

I suppose at this point you are wondering if the Board of Trustees tried to balance the budget by leasing out our rooftop to the San Diego Zoo for their endangered species breeding programs. While they have considered such things, I am confident that this is not the answer to our current mystery. Yet, the strange noises that persisted for many weeks may have encouraged some of our members to conclude that our roof had been transformed into a vast African



savannah where animals roam freely. Some worried that they had missed the last congregational meeting when we changed the name of the church to Okavango Presbyterian.

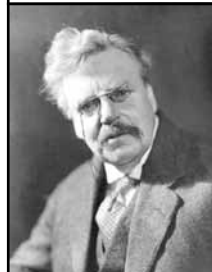
Such flights of fantasy are, in the end, not necessary to explain the recent events on the roof of New Life. The boring truth is that we had a new roof installed this summer. The original story read, "We installed a new roof this summer. See picture." But some members felt this lacked a certain amount of depth. So, it became necessary to imagine that the busy footfalls of Oscar, Luciano, Eden, and other fellows installing our new roof were gazelles frolicking on the African plain. Jon, chipping away the old pitch pockets was magically transformed into woodpeckers making new homes. And the pachyderms were, in reality, only very large bundles of roofing material being rolled across the roof. So you see, the fairy tale was much more exciting

than real life, at least this one time. Oh, see picture. 🐘

FREE NEW TESTAMENTS AT NEW LIFE!

*From the Deacon Board
Submitted by Peter Chapman*

The deacons have purchased a case of 100 New Testaments for walk-ins and neighborhood evangelism. They were very reasonably priced at 50 cents each. However, we want the congregation to take advantage of this as well. If there is someone to whom you would like to give a Bible, please feel free and take one or ask one of the deacons to get one for you. They are located in the Copy Center in the upper right cabinet above the cutting board. 🐘



"Love means loving the unlovable—or it is no virtue at all."

—G.K. Chesterton,
Heretics