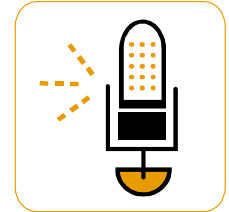


Calvary Memorial Baptist Church (708) 481-8300  
4216 W. 204<sup>th</sup> Street, Matteson, Illinois



## LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

*EVEN WITH ALL OF  
THE CONSISTENT  
EVIDENCE OF  
HIS GRACIOUSNESS  
... STILL STRUGGLE  
WITH TRUSTING.*

Sometimes, I reflect on what a bunch of lightweights a lot of us are in the trusting God department of our lives. With the technological advances that we have at this point in human experience, much of what folks used to trust God for is obtained without much effort compared to even a generation ago. We don't really need to trust him to provide water for us. We just go to the faucet and there it is in abundance. We really don't need to trust him for food, as the average waistline professes. We have shelters from the

storm and sun as well as transportation to get where we need to go, not to mention where we want to go. We have it made, with little shortage to rely upon God to wonderfully and unquestionably provide. We even live in relative seclusion with our oceanic borders, which makes us a little harder to attack. When attacked, we can fire back with pin-point precision.

Israel, in the wilderness, had to trust God for everything. Without his daily provision of food, without the miraculous provision of water, they would have all died in the

sand, becoming a vulture's banquet. Without the amazing victories that He gave them, they would have been wiped out and resold into the slavery that they had been delivered from in Egypt. Even with all of the consistent evidence of his graciousness, however, the Nation still struggled with trusting.

In Numbers 14, we read the account of the rebellion at Kadesh in the desert of Paran. After seeing God devastate the super-power, Egypt, they cowered at the thought of the warriors of Canaan. They forgot all of the evidence of

Continued Page 3

## MISSION NEWS

✠ **Brian and Tita's** six months of home ministry were quite different than any other. Life in northern New Hampshire is not as they remembered, and Christianity is very different, but the Lord provided for all their needs. Please keep them in prayer as they adjust to the loss of an aunt, Brian's stepfather, a cousin, and this month Brian's brother-in law. Brian will continue teaching at the Nicaraguan Bible Institute. Samuel is doing well and Ana-Lucia should graduate in May. Please

pray that the Lord will continue to provide for their 89-year-old mothers' needs, and for Tita who is suffering from AD... They write: "We pray that your celebration of Thanksgiving and Christmas will be especially blessed."

✠ **Susan** writes: "Thanks for praying with us about Rick's trip to Indonesia and mine to Malaysia." All went well with team meetings, the seminar, and the revision of 15 sections of Luke which will be published together in an

illustrated booklet. Susan has been asked to consider taking a coordinator role for the Asia Area from June 2010-2011. Please pray as she is finishing her last two classes, and preparing for comprehensive exams. Kris is going through a series of interviews to teach English in Korea. Michael is working part-time and attending College of Du Page part-time. David is at Baker College in Muskegon for his second year.

✠ **Tim and Susana** wrote about Pat, a lady who came

Continued Page 2

### Highlights

Letter from the Pastor

Mission News

Coming Events





*"These have been trying days ... but the Savior shows His love and care through it all."*

## Mission News Conclusion . . .

to live in Spain with promised help from her sons. The help didn't come and her pension is now barely covering her needs. She also was recently robbed of her laptop, cell phone, and hand bag. Now major car repair is necessary and she does not have the money. "In the midst of all this, her joyful spirit shines like the sun." They ask: "Would you please join us these days to pray for Pat that she would see clearly what is the Lord's will for her life? Everyone will be sad to see her go, if she does, but we all want what is best for her and if she stays it will only be through a miracle of God since the housing market is not moving. Thanks."

† The **Bowers** ask us to pray for the two Christian preschools in Kayes... for funding necessary to build and expand. "Praise the Lord that great progress has been made! The Duduya Well is about 50 feet deep and has several feet of water in it. Pray for safety of the diggers blasting with dynamite every day or two. Please keep support regularly in your prayers. Praise the Lord... for the most part sufficient funds come in to meet our salary each month." One concern is that Jim and Jennifer would both like to travel home with Benjamin to put

him in college. "Danielle is in need of an additional \$300 per month support and would appreciate your prayers as well."

† **Tom and Nancy** share good news! Nancy's first chemo treatment of the new series went very well... she was monitored in the hospital since this drug caused a previous reaction. Please continue praying...

† **Andrew** writes about driving 2600 miles in Ukraine, the second largest country in Europe. They actually drove on cobblestone roads that date back to czarist times. He visited 22 newly-planted churches in western Ukraine. There are now more evangelical Christians in Ukraine than in Germany and Britain together. Read more about the new converts, and the SGA 75th anniversary celebration in Chicago in Andrew's letter on the board.

† See photos and read about the new **JAARS** Quest Kodiak. Bob and Dottie report on the nearly 10,000 mile trip from Waxhaw NC to Papua New Guinea where the new plane will be put into service for the people groups of PNG. One of Bob's current projects is preparing some Wycliffe and SIL historical recordings to help make them available for others. This spring and summer they visited support teams and colleagues in New England, California and the Midwest.

Their letter is on the board.

† **Thelma** writes: "These have been trying days... but the Savior shows His love and care through it all." She has been in the hospital... followed by daily rehab. Thelma "would love to hear from you as to how the Lord is meeting your needs... How is He blessing you? Pray that I will gain my strength rapidly and be able to return to assisted living and my apartment... Thank you for your prayers and financial help." Other news in her letter on the board.

† From Rex Lee Carlaw: "At **ACTION**, we believe that meeting needs is a wonderful platform for preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In 29 countries, 250 missionaries are rejecting the world's way and serving others according to the Biblical injunctions." Worldwide News Briefs cover Uganda, Zambia, Philippines, Ukraine, Brazil and Mexico.

† From **Bill Mills**: "I will be stepping down as president of Leadership Resources on January 1, 2010, and Craig Parro will begin to serve as our new president. I am not retiring... Karen will continue to work in the area of finances and try to keep me in line. Would you join us in asking God to protect us in these days of transition..." More details in his letter on the board.

God's power, love and provision. They jumped at the idea of surrendering to the Egyptians, reenlisting into slavery rather than trust God to defeat their future foes. Even though they had incredibly abundant reasons from their personal experience to trust fully, they cowered in faithlessness.

I have never heard a cowering person being a thankful person.

In 1620, 102 pilgrims and a crew of 30 sailed on a 25' x 113' foot ship for a 66 day trip to the "New World." The plan had been for them to take two ships, but the Speedwell was leaking too much to make the transatlantic voyage, so the home seeking vagabonds crowded onto the Mayflower.

Their moniker, "Pilgrim" was earned before these separatists sailed from England. They had previously relocated to in search of religious freedom. (They believed that the Church of England was so corrupt that there was no hope for it. Seeing that the government and the Church were in essence one entity, the only way to be separate from the corrupt religious system was to leave England altogether.) Economic conditions were poor enough for these saints that remaining in Holland became an unviable option. Their desire to follow Christ apart from the control of the Church of England led them to move across an ocean, where its authority would not reach in the "new" and "unsettled" land. They desired to follow Christ, even if it meant difficulty, persecution or death.

I think that folks accepted adversity more easily in those times, as there was so much more of it. Plagues and errant, inadequate or absent medical care were common deadly forces, and we would easily think of their base standard of living as deep poverty. Yet these "pilgrims" are best known for being thankful to God for the abundance of his blessings and not cowering before their difficulties.

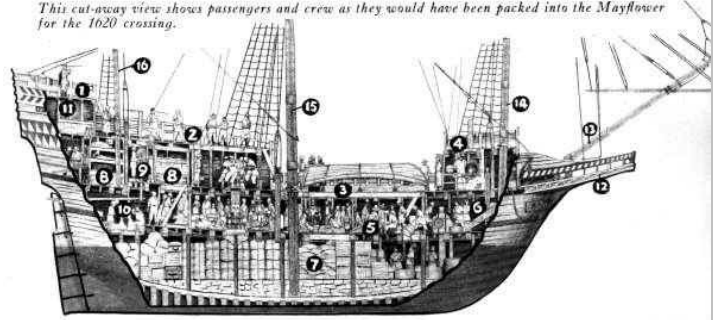
We know that half of these saints did not survive their first year as they arrived when winter was in full force in New England. Nonetheless, their first year ended with a three day celebration of Thanksgiving, and not with cowering and grief.

Paul writes:

"We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many." 2 Corinthians 1:8-11

Paul anticipates that the end result of the harsh adversity that he, Timothy and others who served with them were facing

This cut-away view shows passengers and crew as they would have been packed into the Mayflower for the 1620 crossing.



KEY TO DRAWING:

- |  |  |                      |
|--|--|----------------------|
| 1. Poop deck.  | 6. Crew's quarters.                                | 11. Captain's cabin. |
| 2. Half deck.  | 7. Large hold.                                     | 12. Beak.            |
| 3. Upper deck.                                       | 8. Special cabins.                                 | 13. Bowsprit.        |
| 4. Forecastle.                                       | 9. Helmsman with whipstaff controlling the tiller. | 14. Foremast.        |
| 5. Main deck where most of the Pilgrims were housed. | 10. Tiller room.                                   | 15. Mainmast.        |
|  |  | 16. Mizzen mast.     |

would result in thanksgiving. He, in the midst of the grind, starts this letter with "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort."

Jesus, just before his suffering for us:

"While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

"Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom." Matthew 26:26-29

Paul encourages the Thessalonian believers, a highly persecuted group, in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18:

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

From prison, he tells the Philippians to:

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, *with thanksgiving*, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

In the middle of the few adversities that you and I face, start with giving thanks. Here is a short list if you are short of ideas:

- You have not been treated as your sins have deserved.
- You have had the basic needs supplied.
- Your life has purpose and meaning.
- Your life is not bound by this life
- You are infinitely loved.

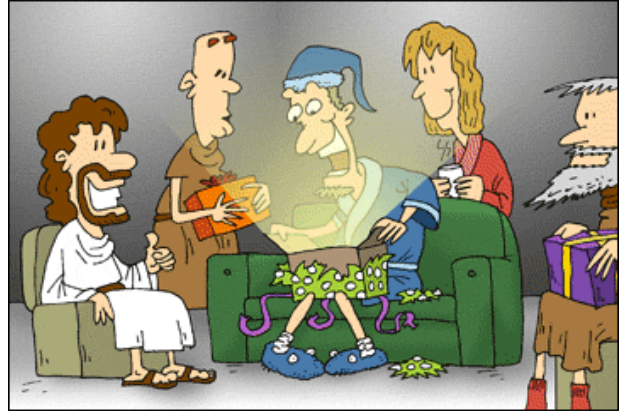
**Pastor's Letter, conclusion...**

We need to fully embrace the concept that our lives are not about us, but about the relationship with God that we were designed to have. If my life purpose corresponds to this, then I can be in a state of perpetual thankfulness because even in the grinder of the worst that life can dish out, I am growing in my relationship with God.

If my life is about me, then, with the forces gathered against me, I ought to cower. If my life is about Christ, and Christ alone, then I must trust him, full of thanksgiving, for he alone is enough.

—Pastor Steve

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Thanks to Andrew S.

12-21-2007

**ETERNAL LIFE, MY FAVORITE ... THANKS JESUS!**

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This is the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, "Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:9). This is the gift of lavish salvation—of all gifts, the greatest gift that you and I will ever receive.

He did not use a silvery box - Or paper green and red;  
God laid His Christmas gift to me - Within a manger bed. —Prentice

**October Harvest Party Highlights**  
**Big THANKS to Jacob and Sarah for planning the party ☺**

**Best Costume Awards**  
←-----→



**NOVEMBER / DECEMBER COMING EVENTS**

Join our weekly meetings:

- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 10:45 am Sunday Morning Worship
- 10:00 am Tuesday Ladies Bible Study
- 7:00 pm Wednesday Evening Prayer

November – Thanksgiving Eve –  
Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm -  
November 25

Christmas Eve service:  
December 23rd at 7pm!

Help Wanted:

If you would like to help out with the sound system on Sunday mornings, see Steve or Glen. You would need to be on sight at 8:50 on Sunday mornings.

