



CALVARY COURIER

Sept-Oct 2010

Letter from the Pastor

I have never figured out whether or not I like the fall all that much. Maybe it's the fall allergies or perhaps it is the schedule increase that the reopening of school brings for me. At the same time, the cooler temperatures and the onset of the wonder of changing leaves is a great positive.

Perhaps every season has its ups and downs. The winter is cold with high heating bills but freshly fallen snow has a covering beauty all its own. Spring revitalizes everything with green rebirth, and inflicts spring allergies. The summer leaves time for some relaxation in the pool or lake, but there is the heat and the cooling bill can definitely bend a budget.

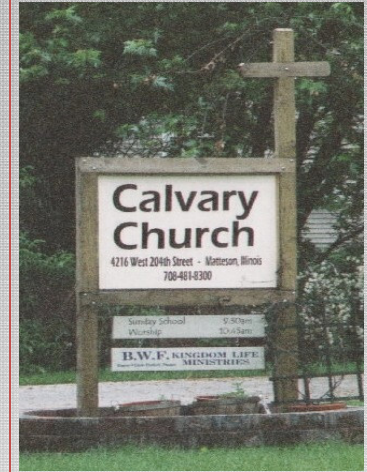
The fall brings on new elections and as I sit in the upper level of Higher Grounds Coffee in Bourbonnais, I get to gaze down upon an upcoming political rally. I am not too sure that I am impressed by things political anymore. It seems that the theme now is simply "Here's what I am going to give you!" while the wanters drink it all in. The candidates drive around in customized tour busses and speak to a variety of crowds who nod in the agreement that they came with. Higher Grounds did have a brief business boom, though, seeing that you need coffee to get any event going.

Ecclesiastes seems to be incredibly relevant at this moment.

*Meaningless! Meaningless!
says the Teacher.
Utterly meaningles!
Everything is meaningless!*

I could just rewrite the book here, but you can read it on your own.

Man's solutions to his own problems and dilemmas sound great and all, but they never work. We defeat a tyrant here, and another one springs up there in whack-a-mole fashion. We create a "fix" to a negative situation and then spend even more time and resources fixing the fix that was supposed to be a solution. It seems to be the case that what ever we come with to make our lives better ends up backfiring and creating a greater mess than we started with.



CHURCH MINISTRY

Sundays

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:45 am – Morning Worship

Mondays

10:00 am – Ladies Bible Study

Wednesdays

7:00 pm – Church Prayer

Fellowship

[God says,] "But blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence."

Jeremiah 17:7 (NLT)

CALVARY MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

4216 W. 204th Street, Matteson, IL - ph: 708-481-8300 - www.calvarychurchmatteson.org

We can look back to the "War on Poverty" that was supposed to do something positive for the poor. 40 years later, has poverty changed at all? Are families better than before or has the effort had the end effect of making matters worse?

Solomon, the presumed writer of Ecclesiastes, devoted himself to "study and explore" life on earth; what works and what doesn't. He tries every "solution" to make life meaningful, from maximizing pleasure to increasing educational status. He found that nothing works other than this: "Fear God and keep his commandments."

Solomon is not advocating a Pharisaic approach to life, where we become paranoid about stepping on cracks lest we incur divine wrath. It is about starting at the Origin and living according to His plan. This plan perfectly compensates for the core problem of humanity, from which all other problems derive, the problem of our own rebellion against the Originator. Having cast off the Blueprint, there is a never ending line of folks who seek to inflict theirs upon us all. I think that this is akin to trying to fix the dishwasher by using a cook book. You can look very busy and noble in the attempt and project the wonders of the impending repair, but you will fail.

I long for the politician who will tell us that we are our own problem. Some problems, like disease and death we are stuck with for now (see Romans 8:18-27). The real sources of agony, however, come from ourselves. What are the real causes of poverty? Is it really evil corporations keeping folks down (this is self defeating) or could it be waste of available provision? Is it governmental policy or how I respond to it.

What if we simply, as a community of individuals, each took responsibility for our own conduct, seeking to bring it under submission to God. What if we read Ecclesiastes and find that we should find contentment in supporting ourselves? (Sure folks need help sometimes, but not in a way as to create dependency.) That we should not seek after more.

What if we loved our neighbors as ourselves? Crime would vanish! Broken families could heal and AIDS would die off! The effects of poverty would diminish! What would happen if folks in our nation chose to seek God and obey him for just 6 months, would we not be better off? (What if they obeyed even if they chose not to believe?) Would we have needy neighbors? Individually, we might have less in material goods but would end up with far more relationally, which most would agree is a far better life.

I doubt that we are going to hear a politician call us to righteousness in the near future, but, what would be the effect if we, even just the Calvary band, continued to live out loving God and loving our neighbors as we love ourselves? What if the body of Christ in the States began to live apart from the "morism" that seems to possess even the saints?

Maybe we are where it all starts, like it did with 11 very young men. Hey, it has to start somewhere.

In every season of our lives, in our likes and dislikes, may we appreciate and live out a clear devotion to Jesus Christ so that even if folks do not turn to Christ, they will know that they have caught a glimpse of Him in us.

--Pastor Steve

Looking for ways to look good? Search the Bible for character-building verses. Then through prayer and the Spirit's empowering, inject the godly traits of those verses into your life. The side effects are all good.

Think not alone of outward form; Its beauty will depart; But cultivate the Spirit's fruits That grow within the heart. —D. De Haan

Put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. —Ephesians 4:24

The *MISSION NEWS*

o From **Susan**: The work is progressing on the house they found. They are temporarily staying in their team mates house while they are out of the country. Susan fell "swiftly and hard" on a flight of stairs. "Again, we thank the Lord that she wan't hurt seriously -- a big bruise on the botton of her foot and sore hip and leg.... also a house swarming with mosquitoes.... pray that she or **Rick** will not get any mosquito borne illnesses..." Please pray for safe travel, meetings and house renovations; "for **Kris** as he continues developing good relationships in Seattle; **Michael** as he settles into a new role at work and seeks direction for the future; **David** as he adjusts to a more intensive study program in Computer Science at Huntington, and makes new friends; for our whole family to sense God working in our lives."

o **Tim and Susana** are "coping with the heat by taking some 'siesta' time with the air con in our apartment and following the customs of the culture in which we are living." Susana has started physio-therapy - five days per week. It is painful but she is happy to be on her way to recovery. Please pray for Mateo and Estrella, and Mateo's son; and Bernardo and Nieves. A team of 85 young people from churches in USA and Spain gathered on the coast for

evangelism. Tim and Susana "were invited to speak & challenge the ones that could not speak Spanish." Panu, now in Finland, had given his life to Christ in January. He wrote: "We were praying with my friends last night for hours and hours: Just can't get enough of His love." Tim wrote: "Thanks again for your prayers."

o **Bowers** expect to return to Senegal Labor Day weekend. They will appreciate prayer for their two college students staying in the States - one in Ohio and the other in Connecticut. Jim and Jennifer will be leading and hosting a Fulani conference as soon as they return: "A big deal for which we need your prayers." Also prayer for additional funds to finish the Duduya well.

o Please keep **Elva, Warren and Joyce, and Roy and Ethel** in your prayers -- in regard to health issues, and sufficient funds for their needs.

o Read about **Leadership Resources** "Seeds of Hope" in Craig Parro's letter on the board.

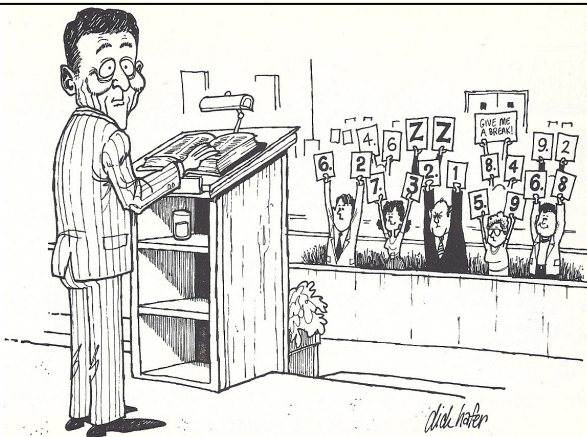
o Bible League International – **Romania**: In His great mercy and grace, God helped us to start from scratch a "new generation" of church planters in the last 11 months. We have now 129 new church planters in the ministry in

Romania. That is a great answer of God to our humble prayer to rekindle that ministry. Praise the Lord! Pray for our church planters to be diligent workers in the "white fields" of Romania! We are so thankful to God for the over 900 new members who were baptized in the last months of ministry with the contribution of volunteers. We rejoice with Heaven for the new brothers and sisters who joined the large Christian evangelical family in Romania. Pray for the new members' faithfulness in their walk with God.

o Bible League International – from a worker in **Mozambique**: 'The financial global crises ...has forced the government to increase the prices of almost everything... just within a week, which [resulted in]... closing the roads and many commercial shops. Schools and other sectors of work are closed, and some kind of violence is taking place up to now. Some of our staff are still at the office since last Wednesday, because there is no way to get back home. Myself, I had to walk about one and a half hour to get to the office since yesterday I have to do this walk, for the other staff who are living very far than myself are not able to walk to get to the office today. Please keep us in prayer so that this problem can be solved as soon as possible.'



CONGRATULATIONS
Caleb & Elizabeth Hugo
Married
August 7, 2010



~ FALL FELLOWSHIP ~

If you have ideas for
or would like to plan a special
fall fellowship / game night,
please share your thoughts with
Steve and Ann.

In the United States, Patriot Day occurs on September 11 of each year, designated in memory of the thousands killed in the September 11, 2001 attacks.



U.S. House of Representatives Joint Resolution 71 was approved by a vote of 407-0 on October 25, 2001. It requested that the President designate September 11 of each year as "Patriot Day." President George W. Bush signed the resolution into law on December 18, 2001 (as Public Law 107-89). It is a discretionary day of remembrance.

On this day, the President directs that the American flag be flown at half-staff at individual American homes, at the White House, and on all U.S. government buildings and establishments, home and abroad. The President also asks Americans to observe a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 A.M. (Eastern Daylight Time), the time the first plane struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.