

FROM THE PRESIDENT

To say that it has been a rather unique time at Open Bible for the past couple of months would be an understatement. Thankfully, our church was blessed once again by God in filling our call for a new Pastor in a very short period of time. Many other congregations are not as fortunate.

The process itself is rather stressful, and even though we are extremely thankful that the Lord has answered our prayers with Pastor Schulz, nevertheless one can't help but feel slightly drained.

With that in mind, I thought it might be good to insert a little laughter into this month's article. Many of us will remember back some years ago to a T.V. show entitled "Kids say the darndest things" starring Art Linkletter. Mr. Linkletter would ask young children questions and they would respond with honest, straight from the heart answers that would often make us laugh until our sides hurt. Laughter can be a very good thing especially as a stress reliever.

A friend recently sent me an email of short letters written to God by young children. As I read through them, the laughter that generated from the pages seemed to relieve my stress for a while and I thought it might do the same for you. Then I thought of the stress that God must feel on a very regular basis in watching from his heavenly throne the unbelievable happenings in this sin filled world. I would hope that even He might chuckle just a bit in His love for us, his chosen ones, and specifically for His children. Please let me share just a few with you using their exact wording.

The first letter comes from a young girl named Nan. She writes, "Dear God, I bet it is hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it."

Ginny offers a suggestion to God when she writes, "Dear God, Please put another Holiday between Christmas and Easter. There is nothing good in there now".

Jonathon congratulates God for doing the right thing. He writes, "Dear God, If you let the dinosaur not extinct we would not have a country. You did the right thing."

Joyce questions the power of prayer when she writes, Dear God, Thank you for the baby brother but what I prayed for was a puppy."

Mickey D gives God a heads up before arriving at church on Sunday morning. "Dear God, If you watch in Church on Sunday, I will show you my new shoes!"

Finally, Jane attempts to offer a simple suggestion to God that could possibly make things easier for him. "Dear God, Instead of letting people die and having to make new ones why don't you just keep the ones you got now?" I really thought that most of us in our so called golden years could relate to that one.

All of us have a certain amount of stress and/or disappointing circumstances that come into our lives from time to time. We can point to a number of things that are perplexing to us. So it is good to laugh when we can, and most importantly, to realize that we have every reason to be happy and filled with joy. Through faith, we are all children of God. He tells us to have the simple faith of children and we will live forever in the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In Mark 10:13-16 God writes, "Then they brought young children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." There is no greater joy than this. Remember, God has proven himself as a faithful father. Now it falls to us to be trusting children.

God's blessings to all,

Greg Wendorf

Read Pastor Mark Schulz's acceptance letter on page 3.

FROM THE PASTOR

No One's Happier than I Am

Some will remember that after Bill Sigurdson read Pastor Mark Schulz's acceptance letter at the service I blurted out, "No one's happier than I am." Later it occurred to me that it may have sounded like I couldn't wait to get away from you. Of course, that is not the case.

I am happy because from what I can see Pastor Schulz is just what is needed. He is younger and more energetic. He has gifts and interests that are needed at this time. Compare it to a relay race in which there are several runners. You may know they hide the slower runners in the middle legs of the race and then the speed burners run the last legs of the race. I am that slow runner. Pastor Schulz will be a "faster runner". Many things will be different, but it will work out well.

I have to admit that I was also happy because the fact that the Call was accepted so quickly solved problems in our lives. Changing to retirement status involves many decisions and changes, all of which depend upon knowing that target date. For instance, both Connie and I have been preparing to switch over to Medicare and trying to figure out what supplemental insurance to purchase. It seemed like there were many other decisions as well and for all decisions we had to name a date. Acceptance of the Call provided the date.

Another important priority is to get to Wisconsin to visit Connie's parents. In addition old friends wanted us to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with them on August 18 in Minnesota. And as a bonus, we are expecting to get to Wisconsin in time for the Open Bible northern picnic on August 14. Everything is working out.

This also will be the case with Open Bible and its mission to serve God's people at The Villages. **But I won't be happy to leave you dear friends and "partners in the Gospel" (as Paul described the Philippians).** Fortunately, we will be around at least some of the time and will give the Schulzes our full backing and support. I am excited about what will unfold in the months and years to come.

Pastor Dale

RETIREMENT PARTY

FELLOW MEMBERS OF OPEN BIBLE AND FAMILY OF PASTOR DALE AND CONNIE,

Pastor Dale's (and Connie's) retirements are fast approaching. The Church Council has decided to honor them with a special gathering in mid- August. At the current time plans are for Pastor to conduct his final service with us on Sunday August 12. In conjunction with that we are planning (with Pastor's approval) to gather together to say "Thank You" to both of them on Saturday afternoon August 11th. We will have a social hour from 4:00 – 5:00 followed by an informal pot luck supper and a brief presentation to follow. The ladies of Open Bible will be handling most of the arrangements for the pot luck. In the near future, they will have signup sheets available at the pass through window near the kitchen for our members to sign-up to bring specific items. The council is encouraging as many of our members as possible to reserve this time to be with us and the Dales.

In order to adequately prepare for this event we are asking those planning on attending to please RSVP to me either by placing a note in my church mailbox, phoning me (352-751-4620), or by emailing me at (glcaw@embarqmail.com) by Saturday July 21.

God has blessed Open Bible beyond description. Certainly Pastor and Connie have been a big part of that blessing and it's time to properly thank them for all they have done for us. We will have a box available where individual cards of well wishes can be placed. There should be ample time for all to express their gratitude to Pastor and Connie. Those who are unable to attend can feel free to send their well wishes directly to Pastor and Connie.

We will also have information available for the installation of Pastor Schulz (scheduled for Saturday August 26) in the near future.

SINCERELY YOURS IN CHRIST'S NAME ,
GREG WENDORF, PRESIDENT
THE CHURCH COUNCIL

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Marriage of Adrianna Clark and Shane Thise, July 21,
4:00 pm

ACCEPTANCE LETTER

June 3, 2012

Dear Members of Open Bible Lutheran Church

After careful and prayerful deliberation, the Lord has led me to accept the call to be your next pastor. I am excited for the opportunity to serve you. I have a great passion to win lost souls for Christ, and am extremely driven for the work that lies before us. When I arrive in your midst I have immediate plans to meet with each family individually in their home environment to begin to establish the bonds of open communication between us.

In the meantime, I have a few commitments here at Trinity that need to be completed. We have a Bible Soccer Camp in June where I will be involved. Further, I will be talking 12 teens to the International Youth Rally in Knoxville, Tennessee during the last Week of June. During the second week of July, I will be overseeing a Vacation Bible School. Immediately after Vacation Bible School, I have plans to fly with my wife to Florida to look for housing. In early August I will preach twice at Trinity. My Farewell sermon is being planned for August 10th. After that, we will make the move to Florida. It is my hope to begin service as your pastor either during the last week of August or 1st week of September. My installation date is still tentative at this point, but we hope to work out soon the exact date and time.

I ask that you all pray that our house in Bay City sell quickly so our transition to our new home would be a smooth one. Looking forward to meeting all of you.

God's Blessings to you and yours,

Pastor Mark M. Schulz

THANK YOU

THANK YOU FOR BLESSINGS RECEIVED

As I awoke this morning and began praying to God for my many needs, I thought of how I have forgotten to thank Him for the many everyday blessings. I opened my eyes and could see, I reached for my food and I could eat and enjoy it. Many are the ways I am blessed, I can't count them all.

Saying that, I can only tell you how overwhelmed I have been, since my recent medical episode. The calls, cards, letters, and visits give far more joy than can be imagined. Many have spoken about the friendliness of the Open Bible Family. The outpouring of feelings I have received will live with me the rest of my days.

God's Blessings to all of you, Herb Schaefer

Thank you to everyone for the cards and the words of comfort for when my brother passed away. We know my brother is heaven with the Lord but it is still a difficult time for the family. We are so blessed to have such a caring church family at Open Bible. Sandy & Ted Hahm

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Dave & Nancy Gonia - 3
Del & Linda Draeger - 6
Dan & Joan Blaho - 22

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Diane Brutlag - 2
Renda Mackey - 4
Joanie Musiel - 6
Sally Stocks - 6
Janice Walters - 10
Laci Blanco - 13
Charlotte Cummings - 14
Dorothy Draeger - 28
Bob Matthias - 29
Liliane Pergola - 31

MORE WISDOM FROM CHILDREN

TEACHER: Now, Simon, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?

SIMON: No sir, I don't have to, my Mom is a good cook.

TEACHER: Clyde, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's.. Did you copy his?
CLYDE: No, sir. It's the same dog.