



# NEWSLETTER



July, 2015

Volume 11, No 7

## FROM THE PASTOR

### *More Than Bricks*

Recently, I was speaking with Pastor Larry Schlomer who oversees areas of world missions in our Wisconsin Synod. I told him that I had recently heard of a pastor in the Wisconsin Synod who was involved in a building program, where the pastor referred to it as, "More Than Bricks." What the pastor meant by this phrase is that the building program at his congregation wasn't about putting up more bricks, but rather looking for ways to expand the work of reaching the lost and nurturing the saved. In addition, the pastor encouraged his people to carry out their building program not only at their own parish, but also throughout the world. So the pastor proposed the idea to the congregation, that in their upcoming building program, 10% of what was raised for the building program go to a specific Home Mission, and 10% of what was raised go to a specific world mission. In other words, the focus of the campaign would be to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ, to reach the lost, not just locally, but throughout the world. This reminded me of the words of Jesus in Luke 4:43, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to other towns also, because that is why I was sent."

I asked Pastor Schlomer if there were any specific world mission fields that could use some extra support. He mentioned to me that in Nepal, which just suffered an earthquake, the mission

continues to grow. Even though the Hindu's do not allow new Christian churches to be founded, there is a core WELS supported group that is reaching out. In fact the church has grown from some 400 to over 4000. They have worship services in some 30 village churches.

As we take a closer look at expansion of Open Bible this coming fall, let us ask ourselves the question, How will this expansion help us to better reach the lost, and how will it provide a better way to teach or nurture the saved? We need to put aside any personal preferences we may have, and seriously consider what is in the best interest of carrying out the mission Christ has given to us. Are the proposals we are given the most cost effective way to accomplish our overall mission? Yes, exciting Things are happening at Open Bible! And Truly it is "More Than About Bricks".

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Those of us who subscribe to the Villages newspaper "The Daily Sun" will recognize a section we receive every Saturday entitled "The Mix". It's a rather unique section that features news from Village neighborhoods. It contains pictures, and stories about neighborhood gatherings, special activities, visits and special accomplishments of grandchildren and trips people have taken.

A while back a group of friends and neighbors took a trip to Graceland in Memphis Tennessee.

Graceland is one of the most visited homes in the U.S. It was built in the 1930's and named after the original owner's great aunt, Grace. It later became famous as the home of Elvis Presley.

But the term Graceland has a far greater connotation. It describes the amazing territory into which God placed us when he forgave us our sins and made us His own.

Someone once said that justice is getting what you deserve; mercy is not getting what you deserve; and grace is getting what you don't deserve. That pretty well sums up a Christians faith life. We are all sinners who continually displease God by breaking His commandments in our thoughts, words, and deeds. Justice demands that we forever be banished from His presence. But God is merciful and doesn't punish us with an eternity in hell.

The Scriptures declare that the earth is filled with God's unfailing love and/or grace. The apostle Paul says that ..."the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many" (Romans 5:15). Paul continues in (Ephesians 2:4,5) "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)...

As a young man John Newton was an unbeliever and a slave trader. By God's grace he came to faith in Christ. Newton was moved to write the beautiful hymn: "Amazing Grace how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me". In his final years, Newton suffered from dementia and lamented the loss of his memory. Yet he confided, "I do remember two things: I am a great sinner, and Jesus is a great Savior".

Think of the blessings of being in God's Graceland. He has blessed us, who by nature were dead in sin, with the gift of eternal life. There's nothing that can compare to the riches of His undeserved love.

He took us out of the darkness and brought us into His own Graceland where we will remain for all eternity.

God's blessings to all,  
Greg Wendorf

## WHO'S WHO AT OPEN BIBLE

### DONNA DAVIS



We have a wonderful new member at Open Bible Church by the name of Donna Davis. Donna has a very colorful history. She was born on a farm 100

miles west of Lincoln, in Ayr, Nebraska. Her introduction to education came in the form of a one room school house with a pot belly stove. During high school she worked from sun up to sun down along side her parents and two siblings. Somehow, she found the time to participate in both softball and golf. At the tender age of 16 she graduated from high school as the Valedictorian of her class.

It wasn't long before she realized her great passion for flying. She achieved her instrument rated pilot's license in the early 1970's. For several years she flew in all women air races. Palms to Pines (from palm trees in Santa Monica, California to pine trees in Oregon), Pacific Air Race, Valley Air Derby and Salinas His & Hers to name a few. To keep the guys from complaining about the all women races, Donna helped organize an Air Race Rally for guys out of Bullhead, Arizona.

As far as work goes, she managed a large construction company building both schools and public works buildings. She also had a fourteen year employment as an account technician with

the Fremont High School district in Sunnyvale, California which ended with retirement in 1995.

She and her husband Mike moved to the Village of Summerhill in The Villages, Florida in 2004. Donna continued to work part time at The Villages Wellness Center, MVP Athletic Club and Villages Golf Car Stores until 2013 when she REALLY retired.

This writer invited Donna to visit Open Bible Church in January of 2015. She also joined us for one of our ladies luncheons and fashion shows. Donna and I, Chris Moelling and June Murray can frequently be found golfing together. Interesting how God does a lot of recruiting on the golf courses.

Donna was baptized as an infant in the First St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Hastings' Nebraska. She was invited by Pastor Schulz to attend the New Life In Christ sessions which she completed in May. Today, Donna is a proud new member of our church and she is hopeful that her husband Mike will join soon.

Submitted by Pat Kramer

## DEFENDERS

Defenders will meet Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM at R/D Tactical Solutions in Ocala. Also, Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup> at the gun range in Leesburg on SR 44. Contact Bill Sigurdson for more information.

## CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

### July Council

The church council is scheduled to meet on Thursday July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00am.

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Dave & Nancy Gonja – 2  
Del & Linda Draeger – 6  
Jack & Shirley Miller – 11  
Joe & Paula Malec – 11  
Dick & Barb Chapman – 18  
Dave & Kim Mottl – 20  
Shane & Adrianna Thise – 21  
Dan & Joan Blaho - 22

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Genie Selvey – 1  
Craig Marshall – 1  
Diane Brutlag – 2  
Ingeborg Holzmann – 2  
Renda Mackey – 4  
Angela Spengler – 4  
Lois Klatt – 4  
Joanie Musiel – 6  
Sally Stocks – 6  
John Bielefeldt – 13  
Kim Mottl - 27