



Family

West Chicago Church of Christ

Volume 40, Issue 8 • February 24, 2008

A Preacher's Perspective

Bev Livermore reminded us on Wednesday to look up to see the eclipse. The sky was perfect and clear and the reddish shadow which covered the brilliant silver moon was a beautiful and rare sight.

How wonderful are the ways of the Lord and how perfectly we live in the design of his hands which sustains us and gives glory to his name. Truly, as the psalmist wrote, the heavens are telling the glory of God and the firmament is showing his handiwork.

Our God is a God of glory. It his very nature to radiate glory as the moon beautifies the night sky and as the brilliant sun thaws the winter snows and brings water and life to the earth.

But God has many kinds of glory. My son, Tim, went with Cliff Plummer to attend the funeral on Friday of Marcel Hill, a young man who had become a part of the youth group at the Park Forest church where Stephen Lamb serves as youth minister. (Jack Plummer, father of Cliff, and of Joan Avey, is an elder there.) Tim and Cliff went to show support to Steve, and to join a heartbroken community who shared grief at the death of this young man of 15 who was murdered.

Tim shared with me the basic outline of the service which included worship to God, testimonies from

those who had known Marcel, and a eulogy by Steve.

What struck Tim most powerfully were the words from Marcel's grandmother. She told of how he had demonstrated a longing for spiritual things at a young age, and she communicated her grief at his early and senseless loss to her and to his community. But her words of gratitude and praise for the Park Forest church were particularly notable to Tim. She stated

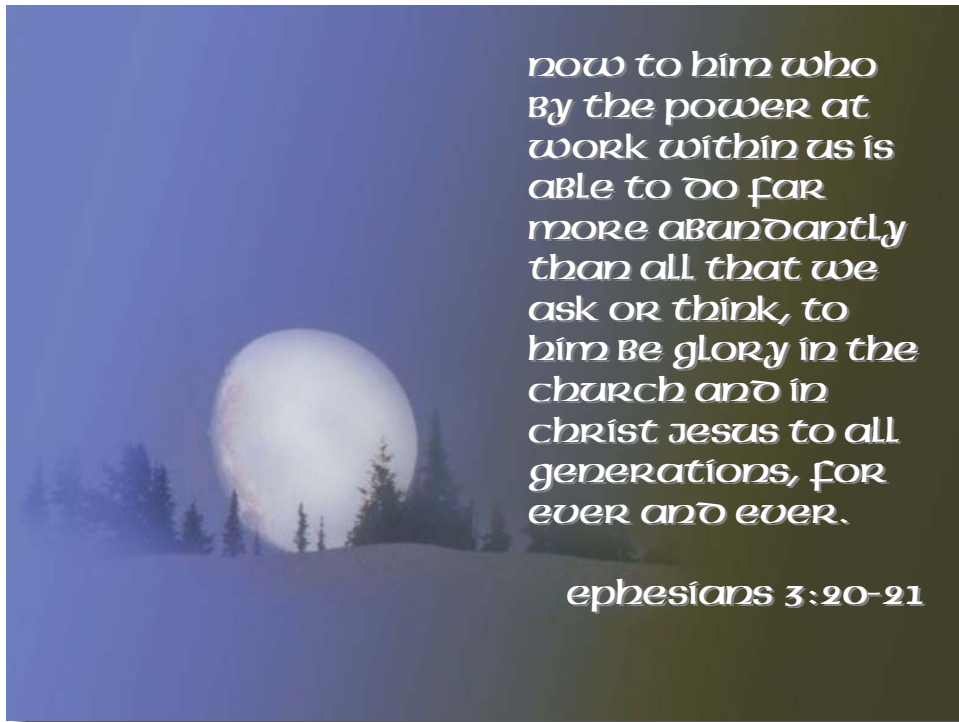
that the church there was the kind of church Jesus had in mind. In her view, they fulfilled their call to represent Jesus to their community.

What a wonderful blessing to be found faithful and to be useful to God in representing him in a world of sin, violence, broken families, and emptiness of soul. How good

to be a point of comfort for a grandmother's broken heart and a point of hope for a grandson lost too early.

Sometimes our best and most important work is just to be there to offer comfort, hope and service and to put a human face on the tears which continually flow from a Lord who loves his children.

God certainly took great delight in the design of the beauty of the skies and the glory of heavens which testify to his mighty hand. But how much more does he delight in the tender hearts of a loving church who show to their world his compassion and his grace in time of trouble.



Chuck Miller

Welcome to the West Chicago Church of Christ

If you are visiting with us, we especially want to welcome you. We pray our time together worshipping our Father in heaven will be uplifting and encouraging.

Bible classes are available for all ages. Babies can be taken to the nursery located at the back of the auditorium. All other children meet in classrooms downstairs. Teens meet in the teen room, which is also located at the back of the auditorium. Adult classes meet in the auditorium and in the fellowship room downstairs.

Our Small Group Fellowship program takes place during the fall, winter and spring months and is on the first and third Sundays of each month and is in lieu of the Sunday evening worship. The Small Group Fellowship schedule does change occasionally due to holidays.

You are an honored guest and we want to thank you for being a part of our worship this morning!

- Sunday Morning Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
(The Sunday Morning Worship is interpreted for the deaf.)
- Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
(No evening worship on Small Group Fellowship Sundays)
- Wednesday Evening Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of our elders.

Elders:

- Don Brewster** **Bob Jett**
- Chuck Miller** **Bob Voigts**

Deacons:

- Justin Avey:** Benevolence, Fellowship, Stewardship & Leadership
- Jay Hearn:** Worship & Pulpit, Communications, Outreach, Education, Benevolence
- Cliff Plummer:** Fellowship, Benevolence, Education
- Curt Robinson:** Education, Stewardship & Leadership
- Rick Root:** Communications, Education, Stewardship & Leadership
- Paul Stirrup:** Stewardship & Leadership, Benevolence



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This Morning...

Please take a moment to fill out an attendance card, especially if you are a guest this morning. Please pass them to the aisle to be picked up before the sermon. Prayer cards are also available in the pew rack. You may choose to have prayers by the elders, a prayer warrior or by the whole church family. If you choose "whole church family" it will be announced following the sermon.

Order of Worship

- Welcome
- Singing - DeWayne Smith
- Announcements - Scott Fordyce
- Singing
- Prayer - Cliff Plummer
- Singing
- Lord's Supper
- Contribution and Prayer Card Collection
- Sermon - Chuck Miller
- Singing
- Prayer Card Responses and Prayer - Bob Voigts
- Announcements
- Singing
- Closing Prayer - Paul Mullins

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- February 25 Jon Miller
- February 27 Mike Mathews

Dates to Remember

- February 24 Sunday Night Light/Teens
- March 2 Small Groups
- March 6 Food Pantry Delivery
- March 8 Elder/Deacon Meeting
- March 8 RCC Board Meeting
- March 9 Daylight Savings Time (Spring Ahead)
- March 9 Ladies Scrapbooking
- March 9 Sunday Night Light/Teens
- March 11 VBS Planning Meeting
- March 13 Preachers Breakfast
- March 14 Flower & Garden Show

Records You Helped Make

- Sunday Morning Bible Class 50
- Sunday Morning Worship 90
- Wednesday Evening Bible Class 35
- Contribution \$4,433.50

Items Left at the Building

Please check for items that belong to you on the table by the restrooms.

In Our Prayers...

Janice Gard, the sister of **Sally Hearn's brother-in-law**, has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

Marcel Hill, a 15-year-old member of the **Park Forest Church of Christ youth group**, was murdered last week. From Chicago Heights, he had been missing several days before he was found in a vacant lot. His funeral was Friday.

Jason & Jackee Johnston, the stepson & daughter-in-law of **Lynette Root's friend**, lost their baby early Thursday morning. He was born pre-mature on Wednesday with a heart condition and weighed only 2 lbs.

Jeremy McGill, a teacher in **China** where Scott and Bridgett worked, is returning to the U.S. this week for a medical evaluation. Funds have been raised to meet his expenses.

Fintan Schiltz, the infant son of Jay & Sally's neighbor, had a heart transplant and is struggling with complications.

Those suffering with long-term issues:

Herman Aultman - Bobbie Whitman's brother
 Andrea Bailey - a former member from California
 Irene Barnes - Lynette Root's aunt
 Paul & Judy Bertrand - Lynette Root's parents
 Lisa Beverly - Sandy Boyd's sister who has MS
 Bonnie Bingham
 Jim Brannon - Pat Brewster's brother-in-law
 Mary Brent - Joe Kirts' sister
 Nancy Brewster
 Jim & Julie Chavez
 Bob Czernik - Chris's husband
 John Day
 Lisa DeVaney - Marie Hayes' daughter
 Al Dorsey
 Chad Englebach - Marie Hayes' grandson
 Amy Ferguson - a former member from Montana
 Jean Gray - Linda Vantreese's sister
 Elizabeth Griffin
 Sarah Hayden & family - Maria Zeisler's relative
 Mary Henkel - Mike's mother
 Kathy Huml - John Pedersen's sister
 Kelly Ieler
 Amy Kalupski - sister-in-law of Julie Chavez's friend
 Joe and Star Kuhnle - Chuck & Bobbye's foster son
 Sue Lake - Marion's sister-in-law
 Debbie Lawrence - Bobbie Whitman's niece
 Don Lemley
 Anne Librande - Joanne Johnson's mother
 Steve Link
 Jack Lockett - the father of Charlie, Mike, Shelley,
 Julie Chavez, Missy Kissane, & Becky Pedersen
 Mike Lockett - Joan's son
 Laura Mahan - Shirley Rucker's daughter
 Steve & Melissa Massie family
 Danielle Nichols - Alyssa Milam's niece
 Tim Miller
 Josh Otte - Chris Czernik's nephew and the son of
 Marion Lake's cousin
 Doug Peterson
 Melinda Poff - the sister of Jason Willis

Neal & Pat Ronzheimer
 Kay Schrader
 Chester & Phyllis Sitler
 Margo Smetana - infant daughter of Steve Link's friend
 Bruce Snyder - Bob Voigts cousin
 Cindy Stewart - Bob Voigts' cousin
 Ollie Taylor - the niece of Lynette Root's friend
 Linda Vantreese
 Bob Voigts
 Eudie Voigts - Bob's mother
 Jim & Jamie Winner
 Jeremy & Jim Whitman
 Rick & Gina Zamora

Mothers-to-be:

Renell Johnston - former member
 Erin Livermore - Craig & Bev's daughter-in-law -
 due is a couple of weeks

Armed forces overseas:

Greg Billings - Justin Avey's employee
 Dustin Meritt - Justin Avey's employee
 Chris & Jennifer Roberts - Cathleen Longfellow's
 sister & brother-in-law are going to Iraq for 16
 months, they have a 1-year-old daughter
 Shane - the son of LeAnn Sexton, a friend of
 Lori Plummer's
 David Teel - Justin Avey's employee

Missionaries:

Jarrold, Allison, Soledad & Levi Brown - Honduras
 (especially for their adoption process of Soledad)
 Obadiah Doka & Family - Nigeria
 Dry Bones Ministry - homeless teens in Denver, CO
 Juan & Roxanna Flores - Honduras
 Leonardo Ken & family - Honduras
 Keith, Kim, Candace, Laura & John Mark Lango
 - Brazil
 Makinde Olufemi - Nigeria
 Shults-Lewis - the teens, their families, the workers
 Joe Voigts - China - also pray for the churches and all
 the new Christians

Nursery Workers

Betsy Jett, Kim Sitler



Collection Counters

Justin Avey, Mike Henkel



Wednesday Ladies Class

Some of our ladies are sharing their most favorite, spiritually-uplifting books the next few weeks. The atmosphere is casual and refreshments are served.

VBS

Would you like to help plan this year's Vacation Bible School program? We're having an "early planning" meeting on Tuesday, March 11, at 9:00 a.m. here at the building. Please see Cliff if you'd like to attend. (This year's VBS

Chicago Celebration for Women

Plans are underway for the next **Chicago Celebration, October 25 - 26, 2008**. We are inviting our Christian women to utilize some of the convention space which will be available to have a special women's event at Chicago Celebration 2008. We believe that Christian women are the heart and soul of the Lord's church. For more information pick up a flyer in the foyer or check the bulletin board. **Please reply to Chuck Miller, miller.chuck@comcast.net, by March 15, if you are interested.**

Sunday Morning Bible Class Teachers

The spring quarter starts next Sunday, March 2, and runs through the end of May. The children's curriculum is **21st Century Christian's New Life Through His Word, the HeartShaper Series** and the Adult 2 class will be continuing to study spiritual warfare using a book by Joe Beam titled **Seeing the Unseen**. The teachers for this quarter are: Nursery - Bev Day, Preschool - Marilyn Smith, K-Grade 1 - Frances Shearer, Grades 2-4 - Steve Link, Grades 5 & 6 - Jay Hearn, Grades 7-12 - Cliff Plummer, Adult 1 - Chuck Miller, and Adult 2 - Scott Fordyce.

Thanks to all who are teaching! Come be a part of the learning and fellowship!

Swaziland Trip by Kevin Bowman

The highlight of our trip for me was our time at the Moriah Center. Moriah Center is run by a South African woman named Diane and her staff of four Swazi women who serve as the teachers. Diane and her small staff have amazing dreams for the future of Swaziland, and those dreams start in Big Bend.

Big Bend is a sugar colony in eastern Swaziland, lying on the Lusutfu River. The only enterprise in the area is the sugar. The plantations stretch as far as the eyes can see. In this area the sugar company controls everything - the electricity, water, and roads. Every skilled worker for miles around is on the payroll, and does only the work the sugar company orders be done. The sugar fields are plush green and yet only feet away from these seemingly endless acres of lush green is the harsh dusty reality that most of the sugar companies workers are oppressed into.

Moriah Center is so much than just another care point. Diane sees Moriah Center as the foundry of a new Swaziland. The UN population estimates for 2050 do not include a future for Swaziland. At a 46% AIDS rate the nation is dying. So Moriah Center is a place where orphans and the vulnerable children are being provided the future of God's Kingdom. Like the Biblical Mount Moriah this is a summit of God's presence.

Appetites - Most of the care points we visited while in Swaziland were feeding a community of children who came

Youth & Family News

TEENS: We have a **Sunday Night, Light** tonight at the Stirrup's home. Guys bring pop, girls bring veggies or dessert.

Cliff is considering a trip to Oklahoma Christian University in late March. Talk to him if you're interested.

SENIORS: Join us for a trip to the **Chicago Flower and Garden Show** on Friday, March 14. Tickets are \$12 and Cliff needs to order them in advance; sign-up on the sheet in the foyer by Sunday, March 9, if you'd like to go.

and spent the day at that care point. During school holidays that number increased since those kids who were able to attend school would no longer come to the center once enrolled. Each morning as the children able to attend school are walking past the Moriah Center, the staff is outside with a high vitamin nutrition drink that the children can drink as they walk. There are sandwiches available for those who would have no means for lunch to pick up and take with them as well. After the school age children are past and in their schools, Moriah Center then receives the preschool age children who will be given the nutrition drink and sandwich in the morning, as well as a hot meal like the other care points in the afternoon. Diane's dream is to have the resources to provide a second hot meal after school hours where the students and the school age children could receive a meal as they travel home.

Basic Education - Currently Moriah Center provides a preschool to begin the learning the process. There are 3 teachers and they take local children and give them a basic education that will prepare those with the available resources to attend school once old enough. That basic education is not enough for Moriah Center. Big dreams for the future include an elementary school that would be able to continue the education of those who do not have the resources to go to school otherwise. Even bigger plans for the future include a sewing school, a carpentry school, and an electrical school to teach the children a trade they can use to break free from the cycle of poverty.

Christ - Kid's Church, Girls Purity Training, Bible Club, and a local Christian church are all part of the ministry at Moriah Center. Moriah Center is providing a backbone of Christian education that will be vital to the future of the Big Bend community. These young children and teens will be raised up hearing a message of God's plan for community rather than the plans they see modeled in the broken homes around them. Young girls are being taught about God's plan for sexuality, and His desire for purity in the marriage bed. Moriah Center realizes that a generation of Godly girls will need to be met with a generation of Godly young men, so it is therefore desiring to add Marriage, Family, and Purity training for young men.

The beauty of Moriah Center is the ability to dream and be challenged to grow into a body that will be able to meet the needs for a new future in Swaziland.