



# Family

## West Chicago Church of Christ

www.wcfamily.org

Volume 42, Issue 32 • August 8, 2010

## A Preacher's Perspective

We sat in a circle in her house. Most of what was said was in Spanish, and we could not understand. Blake shared some scriptures and we asked if there were any special prayer requests. But then, while we were talking, Norma broke in. We knew from the smile on the face of Juancito that something wonderful had taken place. Norma said that she had decided that she wanted to give her life to Jesus. Amazing.

Blake and Juan Gradiz (Juancito) shared New Testament accounts from Acts about conversions—the Ethiopian eunuch, Saul, and others. Juancito encouraged her to complete the transaction with baptism. She felt she needed to wait for some family considerations.

Since that visit, those of us who were present have been praying for Norma and her family. What good news to get an email and photo from Juancito telling us that Norma and three others were baptized. She is our new sister in Christ: “Hermana.”

We have come to feel a deeper and deeper closeness and kinship to these saints of San Marcos. Their little church has become a special point of blessing for us. It becomes a little more impossible to think only of our own agenda, our needs and our concerns. Now, we also must think of them.

How easy it is to drive across town to visit each other. How challenging to walk up a mountain side or

climb steep stairs where the streets have ended to find the home of Norma, or Reina.

Those who have eaten looking at the sweet faces of the children of Ensenada find those images coming to mind as we eat with our own families. God has expanded our world to include much more than before.

Year after year, hopefully, the expansion continues. We begin to see just a little more clearly the global vision of God as He looks at the lives of each one of His children around the world. He challenges us to grow, to share our blessings, and to celebrate His redemptive love for His church.

Would Norma be a Christian today if we had not been there? Perhaps. We just can't know. Our brother Juan is a joy to us with his faithful ministry to his flock. But maybe something Blake said was a trigger. Maybe the gift of food touched a heartstring. Maybe

the simple visit of people from far away opened the eyes of this woman to the truth that the God of Heaven cares for her.

It certainly helped to open *our* eyes. We can feel the cool water of that stream and hear the sound as it cascades over the rocks. And our spirits are refreshed as our new brothers and sisters are washed in the blood of the lamb.

I want to challenge each of you to consider

planning to be a part of our next trip to Mexico or Honduras. You will be blessed to see God at work in new and exciting ways.



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

Bible classes begin at 9:30 and are available for all ages. Babies can be taken to the nursery located at the back of the auditorium. Pre-school and elementary-age children meet in classrooms downstairs. Teens meet in the teen room at the back of the auditorium. The adult class meets in the fellowship room.

Our Community Groups meet every Sunday throughout the year, except for the last Sunday of each month. The last Sunday of each month, we will meet at 6:00 p.m. for a time of praise and fellowship. If you are interested in joining a Community Group, please speak with one of our Deacons.

A weekly web-cast of our Sunday morning worship services is available by following these instructions:

<http://wcfamily.viewnetcam.com>

Username: wcfamily

Password: 6302312062

Click "SINGLE" tab

Allow any Active X controls

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of our Elders:

Don Brewster      Chuck Miller

Our Deacons are:

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

Sunday Morning Bible Class . . . . . 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship . . . . . 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Evening (last Sunday of each month) . . 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Evening Bible Class . . . . . 7:00 p.m.



350 East James Avenue  
West Chicago, Illinois 60185  
(630) 231-2062  
wcfamily@wcfamily.org • www.wcfamily.org

## This Morning ...

Please take a moment this morning to fill out an attendance card, especially if you are a guest. 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, Scripture Reading & Prayer . . . . . Blake Mullins

Kid's Connection. . . . . Jon Miller

Praise Songs . . . . . Dewayne Smith

100 Holy Ground

791 On Bended Knee

671 Purer in Heart, O God

682 Purer Yet and Purer

83 God Is So Good

315 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Communion. . . . . Rick Root

Contribution and Prayer Card Collection

Sermon . . . . . Chuck Miller

Invitation Song . . . . . Dewayne Smith

911 Bring Christ Your Broken Heart

Prayer Card Responses and Closing Prayer . . . . . Bob Voigts

Closing Song . . . . . Dewayne Smith

76 How Great Thou Art

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

August 8 . . . . . Jason Day

August 10 . . . . . A.J. Deitrick

August 11 . . . . . Cole Livermore

## Dates to Remember

TODAY . . . . . Community Groups

August 9 . . . . . Living Room Cafe

August 10 . . . . . Tuesday Ladies Class

August 12 . . . . . Six Flags - Teens

August 12 . . . . . Teen Parent Connection

August 13 . . . . . Men's Prayer Breakfast

August 14 . . . . . Jeff Robinson's Party

August 15 . . . . . Doka! - Potluck Luncheon

August 17 . . . . . Tuesday Ladies Class

August 18 . . . . . Seniors Breakfast

August 19 . . . . . Teen Parent Connection

August 20 . . . . . Men's Prayer Breakfast

August 22 . . . . . Community Groups

August 29 . . . . . Praise Sunday!

## Records You Helped Make

Sunday Morning Bible Class . . . . . 68

Wednesday Evening Bible Class . . . . . 33

Contribution . . . . . \$13,208.00

Nursery Workers . . . . . Bev Day, Lynette Root

Collection Counters . . . . . Jeff Ieler, Paul Mullins

## In Our Prayers...

**Myrna Levake** had problems swallowing because of scar tissue from her cancer treatments. She had a procedure to stretch her throat this week.

**Craig Malloy, Nana Lake's stepbrother**, had back surgery. He is doing much better.

**Margaret Mott** was admitted to Delnor Hospital on Thursday for tests.

**Helen Plummer, the mother of Joan Avey and Cliff**, has a type of blood cancer, multiple myeloma. She is starting chemotherapy treatments.

**Robert Prosser, the father-in-law of Joan Lockett's daughter, Shelley**, is very ill with cancer and under hospice care. He resides in Florida.

**Glenn Ulery, Dan Vantreese's brother-in-law**, passed away last week.

### Those suffering with long-term issues:

Herman Aultman – Bobbie Whitman's brother

Justin Avey

Paul & Judy Bertrand – Lynette Root's parents

Herman & Eva Biggers – Josephine Haggerton's brother and sister-in-law

Bonnie Bingham

Nancy Brewster

Jim & Julie Chavez

Gail Cole – Lori Plummer's mother

Daphene Collins – Chuck Miller's cousin

John Day

Al & Doug Dorsey

Joyce Duke – Bobbie Whitman's sister

Joyce Eakins's brother, Hubert

Brad Fowler – Joan Lockett's nephew

Lauren Helton – Josephine Haggerton's nephew

Kathy Huml – John Pedersen's sister

Mason Hutchins – friend of Alec Boyd & Rourke Mullins

Debbie Lawrence – Bobbie Whitman's niece

Don Lemley

Anne Librande – Joanne Johnson's mother

Steve Link

Jack Lockett – father of Charlie, Mike, Julie Chavez,

Shelley Prosser, Missy Kissane, & Becky Pedersen

Mike Lockett – Joan's son

Jackie Milam, Alyssa's mother

Bobby Miller

Danielle Nichols – Alyssa Milam's cousin

Josh Otte – Chris Czernik's nephew and the son of Marion Lake's cousin

Doug Peterson

Kay Schrader

Bruce Snyder & Cindy Stewart – Bob Voigts's cousins

Barb Tincher – Jake's mother

Jim Whitman

### Mothers-to-be:

Jennifer Piehl – Tom & Nancy Doggett's daughter

### Armed forces:

James Bartels – the son of Lynette Root's friend – Iraq

Ryan Gleason – Dana Howard's nephew

Jacob Headtke – U.S. Marines, RCC alumni

Toby Logsdon – Dewayne & Marilyn Smith's son-in-law is in Afghanistan

Jeremy Riley – great-great-nephew of Josephine Haggerton, stationed in Baghdad

Shane – the son of LeAnn Sexton, friend of Lori

Joey Wertz – the friend of Lynette Root's friend, Iraq

Jonathon Young – a Warrant Officer in the army

### Missionaries:

Mission Lazarus – Honduras

Students of Joe Voigts – China

City of Children – Ensenada, Mexico

Obadiah Doka & Family – Nigeria

Ayodele Waleola – Nigeria

Shults-Lewis – the teens, their families, the workers

Enoch & Jeannine Thweatt – Taiwan

## Graduation Party

You are invited to a **Graduation/College Send-Off Party** in honor of **Jeff Robinson** next Saturday, August 14, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at his home. Jeff leaves August 19th for Illinois State University. Please RSVP!

## Living Room Cafe

**Tomorrow, August 9**, is our scheduled day to serve at the Living Room Café. A couple of people have signed up to go, but we need more. Also, we must **leave from the building at 1:30 p.m.** to arrive in time to go to a park where we will serve a picnic. Let Chuck know if you plan to go.

## Church Directories

**UPDATED church directories** are available on the table in the foyer. Please take the directory with your name in the upper right corner.

## Teen Parent Connection

The mission of Teen Parent Connection is to serve the community through education on the realities and responsibilities of teenage pregnancy and through long-term assistance to adolescent parents for their development of self-esteem, parenting skills, self-sufficiency. The elders have decided this is a worthy endeavor and are continuing TPC's agreement with our congregation to hold their weekly, Thursday evening meetings in our fellowship room from September 2010 through June 2011. **We also support** each of their meetings as we provide, serve and clean up a well-balanced meal for 10-15 people and provide some assistance with child-care. **If you can help, please see Molly Mullins as soon as possible.**

# youth & family news

**TEENS: Our Six Flags trip is this Thursday, August 12.** Meet at the building at 8:00 a.m. Tickets are \$35, plus you will need money for food.

## Doka Visit

**Obadiah Doka from Nigeria will be speaking to us next Sunday morning, August 15. We will have a Potluck Luncheon following worship in the fellowship room. Here is the amazing story of how God found Doka.**

Northern Nigeria is not a Christian-friendly world. Here, Muslims advocate sharia, the imposition of strict and harsh Muslim law and jihad. Northern Nigeria is an area where Christians have been killed with impunity and even with the support of the government. Witchcraft, paganism and the occult also provide a backdrop for the spiritual darkness of this part of sub-Saharan Africa.

Obadiah Abimiku Doka grew up as the son of the head of the Witchcraft Association in Keffi, about an hour from Abuja, the federal capital. From his earliest days Doka was warned against the “white man’s religion.” His father told him that Christianity was a lie, that Jesus was not true, and that the ministers of this faith were criminals and liars. Doka accepted those teachings. He became Muslim, he worshiped the family idols with his father each morning, and he desired nothing to do with Christianity.

Doka was a bright young man and he was given the opportunity to attend a boarding high school, which provided him the education to become a teacher and become a man of substance in Nigeria. One day in 1984, Doka saw a circle of students running away from something on the ground. That “something” was a fellow student, Bitrus Ishimitu O’Malley, who was convulsing from a seizure. Doka asked, “What’s wrong.”

“He’s sick,” was the reply, “and if you touch him, you will get sick and die.” But Doka could not watch the suffering of his classmate without responding. He persuaded others to help him take Bitrus to a clinic where he received treatment. Later, Doka visited the home of Bitrus O’Malley to see about his friend. As he was leaving, he noticed a piece of paper on the floor.

“What’s this?” he asked Bitrus.

“Shhhh! Doka, don’t speak of this! This is World Bible School course from U.S.” Bitrus feared his family would discover the course and that he would be in serious trouble. Bitrus was studying with a teacher from Ozark, MO named Charles White. He gave the paper to Doka who filled out an enrollment form and also became a student of Charles White.

Doka was an eager learner. Charles White guided Doka through the materials and Doka learned the lessons well. When Doka asked for a Bible, WBS supplied one.

The day the Bible came, Doka went to the post office. The postmaster, watched as Doka unwrapped the book. When the postmaster realized what it was, he took the Bible, poured kerosene on it, and burned it. “Boy, if you took this to your home, you would be in serious trouble,” he warned Doka.

Looking back, Doka agrees that this might have been a great problem. But even without a Bible, through the teaching in the WBS lessons, Doka was soon ready to be baptized. Charles White began to correspond with Christians in Nigeria to go baptize him.

No one was willing. Iti Miuk, a gospel preacher who lived a great distance away, told Charles White that he would be killed if he went to Keffi, because this was a very dangerous area for anyone admitting to being a Christian. Charles White communicated the problem to Doka, but Doka was determined to become a Christian and desperately wanted to be baptized for the forgiveness of sins. Finally, he made the five-hour trip to the home of Iti Miuk and told him of his determination.

After a period of study, Iti Miuk agreed that Doka was ready to be baptized, but he hesitated because there was no church

nearby with which he could worship. Doka, however, insisted. He had not come so far only to return home still in his sins. Iti Miuk reluctantly baptized Doka who returned to his family in Keffi.

When he returned home, Doka could tell no one his exciting new secret. For a while, he continued to worship the family idols with his father early in the morning, although he knew this was wrong. To escape this practice, he got up early, before worship, and went out to the family garden. He told his father he was going to drive away the birds and animals from the food. His father was pleased to have such a responsible son, and Doka was temporarily free from the idolatrous worship.

At last, however, Doka shared the truth of his conversion to Christianity with one of his brothers. This brother told Doka’s stepmother who told his father. Doka’s father was furious. “Where did you hear about this Christianity?” He drew a line in the dirt. “Here is where your body will lie, if you do not abandon this Christianity! Choose between this religion and your life.”

But Doka refused to recant his faith. He was outcast,

considered no longer a member of the family. His father even tried to prevent him from using the family name. But still, Doka held on to his faith. Doka’s father went to the parents of Doka’s wife, Naomi, and tried to persuade them to take back their daughter. They refused, and still Doka persisted in his faith. The situation came to a climax when Doka’s half-sister, Mary, asked him to escort her across town. He willingly went with her. At an intersection, by arrangement of the family

members, there was a large fish-truck with ice, waiting to run down the Christian and kill him. Doka was hit by the truck and knocked over a pile of sand in a construction area. Mary, however, was run over by the wheel of the truck and was immediately killed.

In the confusion, the bystanders believed Doka was dead, too. The family was drinking and celebrating. But Doka was not dead. When he reappeared, his relatives and friends were disappointed. Some Christians in a safer area of Nigeria heard of Doka’s injury and his peril and sent for him. Clarence Wilson, who had been working to establish Christianity in Nigeria for 11 years, cared for Doka until he was fully recovered. Soon after, Doka completed a course in Bible training, and, after much prayer and discussion, decided to return to Keffi to preach and teach. Many of his friends considered this a fatal mistake.

But Doka returned. At first, only he and Naomi were Christians. Then five. Then twelve. Perhaps as many as 250 eventually became Christians in Keffi, although many disappeared. Some were killed, their bodies discovered. Some probably ran away to escape persecution. A church of about 60 was eventually established and remains today, still growing.

One of the friends of Doka’s father, who became a Christian later, asked his father, “You have said this boy will die. But Doka is not dead! Why?”

Doka’s father answered, “He has a strong spirit behind him!”

The friend shared this with Doka, who was surprised to hear his father’s statement. As Doka thought of this, and as he studied the Bible, he remembered the statement by John, “he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” Later Doka told his father’s friend, “Yes, I do have a strong spirit behind me.” He went on to explain that his “strong spirit” was Jesus Christ.

Through contacts from America, Doka was sponsored to come to America to study Bible. He received a degree in 2000 from Freed-Hardeman. Doka returned to Nigeria. After a brief time back in Keffi, where the church has continued to grow, Doka and Naomi and their children moved to Abuja, where there is more opportunity to spread the faith.

Doka’s remarkable story reminds us of the power of God to use simple resources to accomplish great purposes.

