



## Joy to the World!

*By Alexander S. Brown, Minister*

ARE YOU excited about the Mission of the Church to take the Gospel of Christ crucified, risen, ascended and coming again to the nations – as far as the curse is found? I mean, are you *really* excited about it? Does it make you more excited than the advancement of your favorite sports team? Does it generate more passion in you than the fortunes of your political party?

Because it should.

But I am afraid that many of us, in American Evangelicalism, have begun to think about Missions, whether at home or abroad, in the same category as Charity Work. Now, we wouldn't articulate it like that, but I have a feeling that we tend to see the work of Global Missions as something done by other people, out 'there', in the same way we tend to think about NGOs. We support them. We think what they are doing is good. But it's not really something to incite our passions – nothing to get too excited about.

I know if I were to ask you if that was true of you, or really anyone in an Evangelical Church if that was true of them, I would expect you, or them, to object. We know that we should be excited about the work of taking the Gospel to sinners, but my question is, are we? Are we really? Am I, really? And I have to conclude that, I don't think we are. Certainly not as excited as we could be, or should be.

The only reason that I can fathom for why Missionaries like the Bakelaars struggle to raise enough money from the wealthiest section of the Global Church so that they can take the Gospel to one of the neediest sections of the world, is that we aren't terribly excited about the Gospel going to the Japanese. Certainly not excited enough to forgo things to see the Gospel established amongst the largest unreached people group in the world.

Now, some are. There are some, even many, who reduce their own standard of living to see the Gospel go forth. There are those who give generously and liberally to missions at home and abroad. And I know that there are some who simply cannot spare anything else from their budgets in order to support missionaries financially. But even if we take it out of the financial realm – are we praying for our missionaries? Are we following their ministries in Africa, Asia, South America closely enough to know how to pray for them?

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*If it were not for some missionary coming to our people-group, we would never have known that there was a Savior for us.*

### November Calendar

#### Sunday

9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
*History of Christianity series:*  
*Medieval Christianity*

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship  
*Exodus: God, our Savior*

6:00 p.m. Evening Worship  
*The Gospel of John*

Children's Church, Nursery available

- Wed 11/6, 13, & 20 Prayer Meeting (6:30 p.m., GIPC)
- Fri 11/1 **Mission Conference!**  
International Dinner & Keynote Address (6:30 p.m., GIPC)
- Sat 11/2 **Meet our Missionaries!**  
(9:30 a.m. at GIPC, followed by a light lunch)
- Sun 11/3 **"Faith Promise Sunday"**
- Wed 11/6 Book Group for Women (9:30 a.m., Brown home)
- Sat 11/9 Men's Breakfast Bible Study (8:00 a.m., Brown home)
- Mon 11/11 & 25 Ladies Bible Study (6:00 p.m., Dr. Diane Bowen's office)
- Tue 11/12 GIPC Stated Session Mtg. (6:00 p.m., GIPC)
- Wed 11/13 & 20 Ladies Bible Study (9:30 a.m., Brown home)
- Thu 11/28 Thanksgiving Day Holiday
- Fri 11/29 Office Closed

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## Joy to the World!

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I have a feeling we're not. And I think our neglect of Missions is because we have fallen into an "out of sight, out of mind" mentality. After all, it is all so far away. And we can get caught up in the day-in-and-day-out of our own lives. It is so easy to forget about those who are laboring for the Gospel somewhere else. We don't mean to do it, it just happens. The resolve to carve an extra piece out of our household budgets to send to a missionary fades. The determination to pray wanes over time.

But I want to challenge us to not be content with mediocrity when it comes to the spread of the Gospel. I want to challenge us to strike to kindle a real burning passion for Missions, and that will take some work – it won't just happen.

**A**ND SO, let's daily remind ourselves of the Gospel – reminding ourselves of all that we have received due to Missions. It is because faithful missionaries took the Gospel from Jerusalem, then to Judea and Samaria and then to the ends of the earth that we have heard the Gospel. If it were not for some missionary coming to our people-group, we would never have known that there was a Savior for us. As we remind ourselves daily of our desperate need for the Gospel of Grace, let's remember that it is a universal need, and as Paul said,

*"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?" (Romans 10:14)*

But secondly, let us make the effort to get to know our Missionaries. As you all are aware, we have a large rack situated in the foyer that is kept stocked with the latest Missionary Prayer Letters from the Missionaries we support – take these letters, read them, and use them to inform your prayers. Many of our Missionaries have websites that will give a quick introduction as to what they are doing, and what they are hoping to achieve.

Thirdly, don't let this communication be one-way. Write to our missionaries. They won't always have the time to write back, but a letter or a note to these men and women who are sometimes working in lonely environments can be a real blessing.

And finally, one of the easiest ways that you can kick-start, or re-start, or fuel a passion for Missions is by attending our Missions Conference the first weekend in November. We will be welcoming Dr. John Sittema, who is Senior Pastor at Christ Church in Jacksonville, and is the President of WorldServe Ministries which seeks to train and equip pastors working in parts of the world where the Gospel is oppressed. We will also be welcoming Calvin and Geeta who are home from the "frontlines" in South Asia, where they run a children's home serving leprosy-affected communities.

The Conference will be an exciting time – far more exciting than anything you will find on TV, or on a sports field, as we will hear about how the Gospel is being spread as far as the curse is found, and how desperately needy sinners (just like us) are hearing the word of life, and putting their faith in Christ. ☪

## Building & Grounds

The committee (along with other GIPC committees) has been working on the proposed 2014 Budget.

A work day planned for October 19th will be rescheduled for another time.



On Wednesday, December 4th, immediately following the Midweek Prayer Meeting, the B & G Committee and those who would like to assist will be changing the tapestries in the sanctuary and hanging wreaths throughout the building in preparation for the Christmas season.

## Finance Committee

### GIPC Update: Loan Balance

Loan Balance 1/1/13	\$807,308
Principal Paid YTD	\$ 30,882
Loan Balance 10/18/13	\$776,426
October Payment:	
Interest	\$ 2,593
Principal	\$ 2,658
Total Payment	\$ 5,251

## Significant Sessional Actions

- Approved an update to the Communications Policy;
- Established a date for the next Stated Session meeting as Tuesday, November 12th, 6 p.m. at GIPC.

## GOLDEN ISLES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## Ladies Bible Studies



### Wednesday Morning

Each Wednesday morning (except the first) the women of GIPC gather for Bible study, fellowship and prayer. The current study is based on *Galatians*. Study guides are available. All women are welcome to attend, and childcare is available.

November Dates: Wednesday, November 13 and 20.

Time and Location: 9:30 a.m. at the Brown home

### Monday Evening

Women also have the option of attending a Monday evening study which is currently going through C.S. Lewis' "The Screwtape Letters." This group meets every other Monday evening at Dr. Diane Bowen's office.

November Dates: Monday, November 11 and 25

Time and Location: 6:00 p.m. at Dr. Diane Bowen's office

## Monthly Book Group

The Book Group, which meets on the first Wednesday of each month (October-May), is open to all women who enjoy reading and discussing books.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 6th, 9:30 a.m. at Sara Brown's home. The November selection is *A Guide to the Birds of East Africa*, by Nicholas Drayson.



No, this is not a book about ornithology, but an account of a charming, sweet and gripping love triangle, set in Nairobi, Kenya. A romance develops on regular Tuesday bird walks, led by the Scottish widow of a Kenyan politician. A regular participant in the walks, a quiet widower, has competition for Rose's attention from an insincere competitor. Which suitor wins out? After misadventure, a murder, bandits, and a trespassing arrest, the ending of the book turns out to be satisfactory to all parties.

Looking Ahead:

Wednesday, December 4th: *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit*, by Judith Kerr



GIPC is participating in *Operation Christmas Child* by packing shoeboxes to be delivered to needy children around the world. Materials and instructions are available at the church.

✓ Please return filled shoeboxes to the church on or before Sunday, November 17th.

## Men's Ministry

### Men's Breakfast & Bible Study

8:00 a.m. Saturday, November 9th  
(Brown home)

All men are invited to this time of fellowship and discussion based on R. Kent Hughes' book, *Disciplines of a Godly Man*.

November 9: Chapter 10,  
*Discipline of Integrity*

## World Missions

### "God's People on a Mission!"

#### 18th Annual World Missions Conference, November 1-3

Dr. John R. Sittema, Pastor of Christ Church Mandarin in Jacksonville, FL and President of WorldServe will present the Keynote Address on Friday evening immediately following the International (potluck) Dinner, and preach Sunday morning and evening.

Dr. Sittema, along with his wife Carol, will present the work of WorldServe Ministries at the Saturday morning gathering.

On Saturday morning and during the Adult Sunday School class on November 3rd guests Calvin and Geeta will share about the work of the Children's Home in Asia — a ministry serving leprosy-affected communities.

Sunday morning, November 3rd, a special collection of Faith Promise Commitment cards for 2014 will be taken up at the conclusion of the service. These commitments determine the support levels for GIPC missionaries in the coming year. (Faith Promise cards will be available at the conference.)

#### 2014 Faith Promise Goal:

\$26,000: Retain current support

\$30,000: Restore 2012 support levels

\$34,000: Reach! Add financial support to those GIPC has been praying for.

**"May Your ways be known throughout the earth, Your saving power among people everywhere!"**  
(Ps. 67:2)

**NOVEMBER**

"As new-born babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby."  
 (I Peter 2:2)

**Family Worship**

**Old Testament Reading**

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	<i>II Kings</i>	14	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		15	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		16	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		17	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		18	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		19	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		20	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		21	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		22	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		23	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		24	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		25	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	<i>I Chronicles</i>	1,2	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		3,4	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		5,6	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		7,8	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		9,10	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		11,12	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		13,14	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		15	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		16	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		17	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		18	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		19,20	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		21	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		22	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		23	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		24,25	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		26,27	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		28	<input type="checkbox"/>

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"As new-born babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby."  
 (I Peter 2:2)

**Family Worship**

**New Testament Reading**

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	<i>II Timothy</i>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	<i>Titus</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	<i>Philemon</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	<i>Hebrews</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		11	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		12	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		13	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	<i>James</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	<i>I Peter</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	<i>II Peter</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		2	<input type="checkbox"/>

**NOVEMBER**

"As new-born babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby."  
 (I Peter 2:2)

**Private**

**Old Testament Reading**

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	<i>Hosea</i>	7	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		11	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		12	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		13	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		14	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	<i>Joel</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	<i>Amos</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	<i>Obadiah</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	<i>Jonah</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	<i>Micah</i>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		5	<input type="checkbox"/>

**NOVEMBER**

"As new-born babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby."  
 (I Peter 2:2)

**Private**

**Psalms & New Testament**

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	<i>Psalms</i>	120-122	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		123-125	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		126-128	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		129-131	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		132-134	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		135,136	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		137,138	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		139	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		140,141	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		142	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		143	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		144	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		145	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		146,147	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		148-150	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	<i>Luke</i>	1:1-38	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		1:39-80	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		11	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		12	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		13	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		14	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Week beginning  
OCTOBER 27**

**Psalm 37:3-4**

Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart.

**Week beginning  
NOVEMBER 3**

**Psalm 37:5-6**

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in Him, and He will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.

**Week beginning  
NOVEMBER 10**

**Psalm 37:7**

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for Him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!

**Week beginning  
NOVEMBER 17**

**Psalm 37:8-9**

Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil. For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.

**Week beginning  
NOVEMBER 24**

**Psalm 37:23-24**

The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way; though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the LORD upholds his hand.