

Broadcaster

Volume 13, Issue 2

February 2002

From Our Pastor

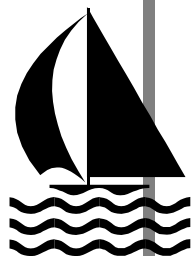
The summer of '77 I learned to sail. I was competent enough to be captain of my own 12 foot fiberglass Sunfish. I had found how by taking the correct angle and by making subtle adjustments to the rudder and the sail I could skim across the lake and even move against the direction of the wind.

Recently I spoke with two area pastors. They had learned over the last ten years the effectiveness of small groups in bringing vitality to their congregations. By being intentional with small groups in their churches they found that the small groups helped them to retain newcomers, provided a place to train every member and created a context for deep caring and mutual support to take place.

Here at Bethany Covenant we have discovered the same dynamics through prayer groups, fellowship dinners and Bible studies. The Outreach Commission is looking at a number of models to help us be more effective through small group ministries. Perhaps as we make fine adjustments to on-going ministries here at Bethany, we too will discover the thrill of sailing as we catch the movement of the Spirit in our community.

-Pastor David Kelly

"...we too will discover the thrill of sailing as we catch the movement of the Spirit in our community."



THE BROADCASTER TEAM

Color Printing: Wally Abramson
Collating/Folding: Gundy and Margaret Gunderson
Editing/Mailing: Teresa Depuydt



Note: Teresa Depuydt has added editing the **Broadcaster** to her duties as Secretary, but as she is ending her term as secretary this month, we are in need of a new volunteer to step forward to undertake that responsibility. Interested? Call the church office.

From Galen and Jill

Foofo family, friends and prayer partners,

Again it is a privilege to share how God has been working in our personal lives, our ministry and in the lives of Fulani around Burkina Faso. This month has not disappointed us, although we have had to look through the screen of many activities or demands for our attention. We can attest that our God is a good God and his mercies ARE new every morning. But like the manna of old we can't store them up for a rainy day. We must make an effort to gather a new crop to sustain us for each new day. But He is faithful to us and the plans He has made for His kingdom. We greet you in this new year full of expectation to what the Lord will provide.

-Galen, Jill and Elikia

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February 2002 Prayer Up-dates for Galen and Jill Johnson (Covenant missionaries working in Burkina Faso among Fulani Muslims in conjunction with SIM)

1] Praise God for his provision of Rev. Brad Hill, friend and Covenant missionary colleague from Congo-Zaire, who provided Biblical insight for both SIM's annual Spiritual Renewal Conference and an improvised meeting of Fulani Christian leaders to discuss appropriate Christian-Fulani ceremonies. I was particularly encouraged by the engaged involvement of the Fulani leaders as we discussed dynamic

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From Galen and Jill

(Continued from page 1)

equivalents for important cultural ceremonies/events among the Fulani. The potential to present the gospel of Jesus during these important events became quite clear to all. Thank you for your prayers for these meetings. Please continue to pray for the Fulani Christian leaders as they continue these discussions.

2] We want to praise God for bringing Covenanter- Barb Johnson to join the SIM team here in Ouaga. Barb, another former Congo-Zaire missionary, just retired from the Covenant Department of World Mission and decided to spend some time back in Africa. We are delighted to have her near (in Ouaga) as she assists in the SIM administration office. Pray for her as she acclimates to Burkina and her work here.

3] This week (Feb. 26) Joodooma and Odile, the young Fulani couple I mentioned last month, will be taking their marriage vows. Shortly after that (Jan 31-Feb 4) Galen will be taking a group of Fulani Christians to join a Fulani conference in Maadaaga (far east tip of the country). This is to be both a time of encouragement of the small Fulani Christian group there and a time to assist in evangelistic outreach to other villages. Please pray for safety in travels and that the gospel of Jesus Christ will be clearly communicated during this time.

4] During February we will again be welcoming a family visitor. Galen's mother, Corrine, will be here for 2 1/2 weeks. Pray for travel plans as air travel through Ouagadougou has been greatly disrupted since the 9-11 tragedies. Pray also that we can share what God is doing here in Burkina as he draws Fulani unto Himself.

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Memories of Bethany by Margaret and Gundy

FEBRUARY 1977 – TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO:

Feb. 13, Sunday. Guest speaker for today's service is Chaplain, Wilbur Solie, of the Minneapolis Vets Adm. Hospital. Wilbur has pastored Covenant Churches prior to his work as a Chaplain. Our pastor, David Wilder is attending the Covenant Midwinter Conference in suburban Kansas City, Kansas. / 6 pm, Wed. Feb. 16 – Pot Luck Supper and at 7 pm a presentation of the intercessory prayer possibilities for Bethany. A group led by Linnea Pearson, Corrine Johnson and Shirley Sallen will share key ideas for an effective prayer chain. / Wed. Feb. 23 – Ash Wed. service at Bethany with Edina Covenant Church members. The message was by Edina's pastor, Rev. Ben Larson. / Sunday 7 pm Feb. 27. Prayer chain orientation program for those interested in Participating in Bethany's Prayer Chain. Meet in fellowship hall.

FEBRUARY 1952 – FIFTY YEARS AGO:

6:30 pm, Sat. Feb. 2 – Young Peoples Banquet at Stouffers Café, 89 S. 7th Street. Dr. Robert Smith, visiting professor of philosophy at Bethel College will speak. There will be fine music. / Sunday, Feb. 3. Young People's Vesper Service at 5:30 pm. This

service will bring Youth Week to a close at Bethany. There will be fine musical talent – a violinist, vocal soloist and a Ladies trio will sing. The guest speaker is Rev. William Law of Edgewater Methodist Church. Supper will be served for everyone after the service. / Thursday, Feb. 14 – At 8 pm, the Dorcas Society's 50th Anniversary. An unusual and interesting program was presented. The three charter members were honored. They were, Mrs. Mathilda Hagglund, Mrs. Alma Pearson, and Mrs. Ida Skoglund. A social fellowship with refreshments followed.

FEBRUARY 1927 – SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO:

From Bethany's newsletter, 'Betania Vännen'. – Sunday School news. One Sunday School member brought three new members, splendid beginning for 1927. Again this year prizes will be awarded to the members for bringing the most new members. – Young People's Society. Speakers for the month will be; Peter Olfelt, Mrs. O.B. Olson, Miss Marie Carlson & Rudolph Swanson. / Cong. Meeting, Feb. 7. The following were accepted into membership: Mrs. Anna Williams, August Johnson, Mrs. Ida Johnson, Evelyn Hedenland, Doris Lindgren, Alpha Swanson & Margaret S. Swanson. – Pastor Olson asked the church members to consider having more English services. / At the Young People's Society Meeting of Feb. 16. Helen Nelson applied for membership. A motion was made that her application be accepted. / Dorcas mtg. of Feb. 25. Speaker for this meeting was Mrs. Carl Nelson who gave a history of the first 25 years of the organization. First Pres. Was Mrs. P.J. Edquist, the third Pres. Was pastor Constantine Olson, fourth Pres. Mrs. Hulda Beckstrom and the fifth Pres. Mrs. O.B. Olson.

The Christmas Gathering at Richland Court found an international group of Chinese, Mexican, El Salvadoran and American women and children together to fellowship and to hear the gospel. Kathy Wellumson and I were pleased with the positive response. In January we resumed Game Time for kids up to third grade, Kids Club for fourth grade and up, and Mothers' Club and Preschool Playtime. A special addition to the schedule is English learning with Jake and Teresa Depuydt, members of Bethany Covenant who speaks Spanish. We hope, also, to schedule a craft evening.

Pioneer Clubs collected toys for Richland Court Ministry as a Christmas mission project. The kids who come to the apartment will enjoy playing with them! Thanks, kids, for your part in our ministry.

With the help of Nancy Peterson, a Dakota County social worker who attends Bethany Covenant, we are working on finding health insurance for families who have recently immigrated here from Ghana and El Salvador. These families need help with the logistics of living in America. We are also helping them place two four-year-olds in pre-schools.

The Advisory Board met on January 10 with Jon Kramka, the Northwest Conference Urban Ministries Specialist to formulate the philosophy and operating procedures for our ministry. The board made the following resolution: "For this calendar year, we the Richland Court Ministry Advisory Board are committed to continuing our shared community outreach of the Bloomington Covenant and Bethany Covenant congregations."

Praise the Lord that this ministry will continue to be fully funded by both Bloomington Covenant Church and Bethany Covenant Church at least until the end of 2002.

Please call me if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas about Richland Court Ministry, or if you would like to be involved with the residents in a specific activity. -With you in Christ's service, Ann Pates, Director

Mission News

On March 24th, 2002 we will have at our church Rev. Gary and Pauline Carlson, missionaries to Japan under the Department of World Mission of the Evangelical Covenant Church. They were called to be involved with Church Planting and Evangelism in June 1983.

During their recent term (1997-2001), Gary was responsible for planting and pastoring the Nakahara Covenant Church in Kawasaki, alongside Japan Covenant pastor Hono Sasaki. Gary has served on the Japan Covenant's administrative, evangelism, and constitution committees, the Board of Covenant Seminary, and as chairman of a new board overseeing elder care ministries.

Along with raising her two sons, Pauline has been involved in the planting of the Nakahara Covenant Church by teaching English classes. Pauline was a board member of the Odawara Christian Center, and served as a board member on the Board of the Christian Academy in Japan (missionary children's school).

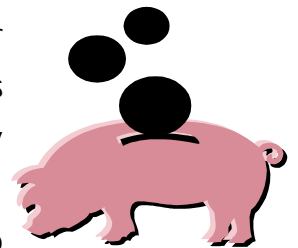
Reflecting on their last term, Gary states, "We've struggled in Japan to find ways to make the gospel of Jesus Christ relevant to a non-Christian culture. Through the planting of the Nakahara Church and its ministries to elderly and young mothers, we have found ways that touch the hearts and lives of people in our community.

-From the Mission Board

FUNDRAISER!

The Finance Commission will soon be selling coupon booklets for Herberger's Community Day Sale on March 2.

If you like to shop at Herbergers's these coupons can save you some money. Watch for further details somewhere sometime.



No more pop cans
We are not taking any more pop cans for recycling at Bethany due to the closing down of the place that we took them.

Bethany Boasts

On December 14, 2001 DEBBIE (MCCLELLAN) BORRELL received her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction in Elementary Education, from the University of Minnesota at Mankato. We're proud of you, Debbie!!! She also gave birth to 7 lb. 8 oz. Sarah Sophia, on December 24th. Congratulations Debbie and Rich and almost two-year-old Lydia, too!

Recently LAURIE JOHNSON HOLTZ was honored for her leadership in her work at GMAC, RFC. In recognition of this achievement Laurie received a Mediterranean cruise for two. Have a great trip, Laurie and Daryl!!!

Do you know that we have an angel in our midst? (Probably more than one!) LAWRENCE SWANSON was elected by his fellow residents at The Pines as "Angel of the Month" for January. His picture and credits are posted on a bulletin board in the main entrance, and he was given a certificate for a free dinner at a local restaurant. His helpful spirit to his neighbors was given as the reason he is an angel. Way to go, Larry!



CORRINE JOHNSON is a great-grandma! She spent the holidays in Bozemon, Montana visiting family - Sharyl & Dan Miller - and getting acquainted with Saige Marie Olmstead, 8 lb. 5 oz. daughter born December 31st to Melissa and Ross Olmstead. Melissa was Corrine's first granddaughter and now she has presented the first great-grandbaby for Corrine. How exciting for all of them!

MARIE MOSAL was named December Member of the Month at the Norsota Sons of Norway Lodge in Lakeville, Minnesota. Read all about her in the newsletter on the Bethany bulletin board.

Congratulations to DONNA FABIAN and RAY RAMON!

Bethany Potpourri Covenant Women Ministries

All our women have received a THANKS A LATTE hot band label and asked to bring offerings for their own personal thankfulness, either for family, self, church, or another choice. It is now time to collect our thank offerings.

Sunday, February 17, will be Covenant Women Sunday at Bethany. That's the day we ask you to bring your thank offering. If you give by check it should be made out to Bethany Women's Potpourri. Your offerings can be given to Donna Abramson or Marlys Wahlberg.

WHERE DOES YOUR OFFERING GO? For you who are donating, if you have a special wish, please tell us. The majority will decide, or if no one specifies a choice, we will send the offering to Covenant Women Ministries in Chicago.

If anyone has a special THANKS they wish to share with our congregation, please let Marlys Wahlberg know and we will share it on Covenant Women's Sunday.



Please Mark Your Calendars

Connie Swain is an Evangelism Consultant with the Northwest Conference of the Covenant Church and will be ministering to us on **Sunday, February 10th**. She will be teaching the adult Sunday school class on the theme, "Contagious Christians" and will also bring the morning's message sharing with us how God is touching lives through Covenant churches in the NW Conference. Connie is the chairperson of the NW Conference Board of Evangelism.

Founder's Day Service will be held on **February 17th** at First Covenant Church in St. Paul. The pre-service will begin at 6:30 pm with a hymn sing and concert by a quartet and the worship service will begin at 7:00 pm with Rev. Glen Wiberg speaking.

Confirmation Class will begin a new schedule starting **February 20th**. The confirmands will meet from 6:00 to 6:45 and will be joined by the junior high students for the youth ministry time at 6:45 to 8:00. This will give more structure to the confirmation class while allowing the integration of new youth to the junior high ministry



News from the Congregational Care Commission

Bethany people frequently ask about our post-high school young folks - where are they - what are they doing. Here's an update on the son and daughters of Rick and Sue Johnson.

LISA is in graduate school at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, studying Library Science. Lisa also is very involved in the Covenant Church, Madison.

SETH is a supervisor for UPS at the Mpls./ St. Paul Airport and takes college courses online.

INGRID will soon be a senior at the University of Minnesota in Global Studies and continues to study Spanish.

Your Bethany friends wish you well in the new year, Lisa, Ingrid and Seth.

Broadcaster readers would like to learn about other young people, too. Information can be turned in to the church office or given to Sharon Anderson or Virginia Vining.

Our Bethany Family Grieves

with our members
who lost loved ones last month.

Our sympathy goes to
Bud and Jan Schau - Jan's mother died
suddenly of a heart attack in Wisconsin.

Our sympathy goes to
Dick and Shirley Newman - Dick's sister
died
in Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

A Word of Thanks

Thank you to the Salonens for the donation of two books to our church library; Heartsongs, and Journey Through Heartsongs by Mattie Stepanek.

"Thank you for mailing me the *Broadcaster*. I enjoy reading about the people I know from way back when I was a member of Bethany."

Sincerely, Eleanor Suneson

Thank you Shirley Newman for the countless hours that you have volunteered in the office!

"Special thanks at this holiday season to the members of three local churches who have allowed us to use their facilities; Bethany Covenant for meetings; Oak Grove Lutheran for the sock hop; and Woodlake Lutheran for the annual holiday shop." Richfield Women of Today President, Michele Thompson, from the article "Happy holidays from the Richfield Women of Today" in the Dec. 19, 2001 issue of the Richfield SunCurrent.

VEAP would like to **thank you** for your generous donation of toys and gift card, with a value totaling at \$130. These were much appreciated by families in need this past holiday season.



VEAP

Happy New Year! VEAP (Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People) had a good holiday season. 979 families were served. 125 seniors, and more than 2,200 children through the Holiday program.

The numbers in all programs continue to rise with no read end in sight. Members of the VEAP Building Team are searching for a bigger facility because we have outgrown our present building.

This past year, Bethany Covenant Church provided 301 pounds of food for VEAP. Also \$135 for gifts, school supplies and toys for Christmas. We can be proud of ourselves!

The Broadcaster Team needs you! Do you have good ideas for layout and design? Do you like to key in already-written articles? Do you enjoy reporting? Do you like to fold? Would you be willing to drive the finished product to the post office? Lots you could do to help! Call the church office, (612) 869-2500, or email us at bethanycov@bethanycov.com if you are interested.

Bethany's Annual Retreat

Sixteen adults and twelve children participated in this year's Annual Retreat at Covenant Pines Bible Camp near McGregor, Minnesota, January 6-8. Rosemarie Foster, Tim Hanson, Matthew Manning, the Kellys, Whalens, Olsons, Depuydts, Bergers, Hansons, Fagerstroms, and Staykos had a super weekend together. They enjoyed wonderful meals, interesting conversations, hard-core broomball, a cold hayride, and a hot fireplace. They met and fellowshiped both mornings and shared God's blessings in their lives. Pastor David said that his highlight was when he had a vision like Abraham's; seeing stars (though his visions were brought on by being knocked down on the ice during the broomball game). Kris Whalen's highlight was enjoying adult conversation after putting the little ones to bed. Meghan Kelly's highlight was cross-country skiing for the first time. Thank you, Mike Olson, for your work in planning this retreat!

Community Outreach

Due to a contact made at Richland Court by Ann Pates, we now have an adult ESL (English as a Second Language) class meeting at Bethany on Tuesdays from 5-6 pm. The first time we met there was one adult, two children. The second time we met there were four adults, three children. The third time we met there were six adults, eight children! This is a wonderful opportunity for us to reach out to the Latino community and also to give their children a boost in school readiness and homework help. Please pray for this outreach. If you would like to participate in this activity, call the church office. -TD

SMILE

A little boy walked to and from school daily. Though the weather that morning was questionable and clouds were forming, he made his daily trek to the elementary school. As the afternoon progressed, the winds whipped up, along with thunder and lightning. The mother of the little boy felt concerned that her son would be frightened as he walked home from school and she herself feared that the electrical storm might harm her child.

Following the roar of thunder, lightning would cut through the sky like a flaming sword. Full of concern, the mother quickly got into her car and drove along the route to her child's school. As she did so, she saw her little boy walking along, but at each flash of lightning, the child would stop, look up and smile. Another and another were to follow quickly and with each the little boy would look at the streak of light and smile. When the mother's car drew up beside the child she lowered the window and called to him, "What are you doing? Why do you keep stopping?" The child answered, "I am trying to look nice, God keeps taking my picture."

May God bless you today as you face the storms that come your way. And don't forget to SMILE!!!

-Submitted by Linda Peterson